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RITUAL OF THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

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JANUARY, 1890.

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PREFACE.

In pursuance of a call, issued and endorsed by several Grand Chapters, a convention of representatives was held at Indianapolis, Indiana, November 16th, 1876, and the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized. A Ritual Committee was appointed, and in 1878 the General Grand Chapter adopted the work, and it was published by its authority. At the session in 1883, a committee on Ritual was appointed, with instructions to receive all proper amendments, and report the same at the next meeting. In 1886, the Committee was continued. At the session in 1889, the Ritual Committee, consisting of Jerome Spaulding, Mary A. Hepler and Lorraine J. Pitkin, presented the following Ritual as the result of their labors, which was adopted.

We hereby certify the following to be the Ritual as revised at the session of the General Grand Chapter, September, 1889.

Nettie Mansford,

M. W. Grand Matron.

Benjamin Lynds,

M. W. Grand Patron.

Lorraine J. Pitkin,

R. W. Grand Secretary.

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THE

Order of the Eastern Star.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

TITLE.

This organization shall be known as "THE ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR."

MEMBERSHIP.

Master Masons in good standing in a Masonic Lodge, and their wives, daughters, mothers, widows, and sisters, who have attained the age of eighteen years, are eligible to membership in this Order.

GOVERNMENT.

The government of the Order is vested in three bodies, named respectively, in the order of their rank, General Grand Chapter, Grand Chapter, and Subordinate Chapter.

GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER.

The authority of the General Grand Chapter is supreme when exercised within the limits defined and prescribed by its Constitution. It has no jurisdiction over matters not specifically given to its control by that instrument.

GRAND CHAPTER.

The authority of a Grand Chapter is supreme within its jurisdiction, excepting upon matters which are within the control of the General Grand Chapter. Its jurisdiction shall not include more than one State or Territory.

SUBORDINATE CHAPTER.

The authority of a Subordinate Chapter is prescribed and limited by the Grand Chapter within whose jurisdiction it exists. Five Subordinate Chapters within any State or Territory where no Grand Chapter exists, may organize a Grand Chapter, possessing all the lawful powers of such a Chapter within said State or Territory.

LANDMARKS.

1. A belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

2. In the Order of the Eastern Star there are only five degrees, known as Adah, the daughter; Ruth, the widow; Esther, the wife; Martha, the sister; and Electa, the mother.

3. The name of the Order, the names of its degrees, and modes of recognition are unchangeable.

4. Its lessons are Scriptural, its teachings moral, and its purposes beneficent.

5. Its obligations are based upon the honor of those who obtain its secrets, and are framed upon the principle that whatever benefits are due by Masons to the wives, daughters, mothers, widows and sisters of Masons, reciprocal duties are due from them to the Brotherhood.

6. That the obligation of our Order, voluntarily assumed, is perpetual, from the force of which there is no release.

7. The ballot, for candidates for the degrees, or membership, must be unanimous, without debate, and kept inviolably secret.

8. The degrees cannot be conferred unless a brother in good standing shall preside. He can call upon the Worthy Matron to assist in conferring the degrees.

9. Every member is amenable to the laws of the Order, and may be tried for offenses, either by the Chapter to which the member belongs, or by the Chapter within whose jurisdiction the member resides.

10. The right of every member to appeal from the decision of a Subordinate Chapter, to the Grand Chapter or its executive head.

11. The right of every Chapter to decide, from among eligible candidates, who shall be admitted to membership.

12. The right of every member to visit any regular Chapter unless lawful objection is made to such visitor.

SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS.

Every Subordinate Chapter must have a Charter or Dispensation legally issued, and always present at its meetings, without which it cannot legally act.

OFFICERS.

The officers of a Subordinate Chapter shall be:

Worthy Matron,	Adah,
Worthy Patron,	Ruth,
Associate Matron,	Esther,
Secretary,	Martha,
Treasurer,	Electa,
Conductress,	Warder,
Asso. Conductress,	Sentinel.

Chaplain,
Marshal, } If Desired.
Organist,

The Stations of the several Officers are indicated on the Plan of Chapter Room on page 12.

The first seven shall be elected by separate and majority ballot, and the others shall be appointed by the Worthy Matron.

MEETINGS.

The meetings of a Chapter are either regular or special. Regular meetings are those held at stated intervals as prescribed by its By-laws. Special meetings are those held by appointment of the Worthy Matron or other lawful authority.

QUORUM.

Seven members, including one of the first three officers, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, unless the By-laws of the Chapter shall prescribe a larger number.

PETITIONS.

A petition for the degrees or membership must be signed by the petitioner and two members of the Chapter, who recommend the petitioner. The petition must be received at a regular meeting of the Chapter, unless the Grand Chapter of its jurisdiction shall otherwise provide; and when received, must be referred to a committee of three members, one of whom shall be a brother, appointed by the presiding officer. The committee can only report at a regular meeting.

THE BALLOT.

The ballot upon petitions for the degrees or membership, can only be taken at a regular meeting. The Associate Conductress shall have charge of the ballot-box, under the direction of the Worthy Matron. After it has been examined by the Worthy Matron and Associate Matron, she shall present it to the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron for their ballot, and may carry it to every member present—or *may* place it upon the Altar. If placed upon the Altar, every member entitled to a vote shall approach the Altar from the West, between Ruth and Esther, make the sign of salutation, deposit their ballot, leaving between Esther and Martha.

The member balloting must be at least three paces in advance of the one who directly follows.

When all have voted, the Worthy Matron shall declare the ballot closed, and direct the Associate Conductress to bear the ballot box West and East.

After it has been examined by the Associate Matron, the Matron will ask:

W. M. Sister Associate Matron.

A. M. Worthy Matron.

W. M. How is the ballot in the West?

The Associate Matron will say:

A. M. The ballot is clear, (or not clear,) Worthy Matron.

After the W. M. has inspected it, and no black balls appear, she will say:

W. M. The ballot being clear in the East, I have the pleasure to inform you that you have elected ——— to receive the degrees, (or become a member,) in this Chapter.

If the ballot is not clear, but so nearly so that the result may have been from mistake, a second and final ballot may be ordered. If the final ballot is dark, the W. M. will say:

W. M. The ballot not being clear, I have to announce that the petition of ——— is rejected.

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership can only be forfeited by dimission, suspension, or expulsion from a Chapter, excepting that the suspension or expulsion of a brother from a Masonic Lodge, for any other cause than non-payment of dues, deprives him of all the rights of membership in this Order until reinstated by the Masonic body.

BADGES, JEWELS, AND REGALIA.

The officers shall wear during Chapter sessions the badge of office belonging to their respective offices. The badge shall consist of the appropriate Jewel, made of gold or gilded metal and sus-

pended by a ribbon having the five colors of the Order.

Collars, Robes, and other regalia in addition to what is here prescribed may be worn by Chapters that desire them; the General Grand Chapter only prescribing the minimum.

The Jewels appropriate to the several Officers are as follows:

WORTHY MATRON, *Five-pointed Star with Gavel in the center.*

WORTHY PATRON, *Five-pointed Star with Square and Compasses in the center.*

ASSOCIATE MATRON, *Five-pointed Star with Sun in the center.*

SECRETARY, *Five-pointed Star with Cross-pens in the center.*

TREASURER, *Five-pointed Star with Cross-keys in the center.*

CONDUCTRESS, *Five-pointed Star with Scroll and Baton in the center.*

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS, *Five-pointed Star with Baton in the center.*

CHAPLAIN, *Five-pointed Star with Bible in the center.*

MARSHAL, *Five-pointed Star with Cross-batons in the center.*

ADAH, *Triangle, with Sword and Veil in the center.*

RUTH, *Triangle, with Sheaf in the center;*

ESTHER, *Triangle, with Crown and Sceptre in the center.*

MARTHA, *Triangle, with Broken Column in the center.*

ELECTA, *Triangle, with Cup in the center;*

WARDER, *Five-pointed Star with Dove in the center.*

SENTINEL, *Five-pointed Star with Cross-swords in the center.*

ORGANIST, *Five-pointed Star with Lyre in the center.*

The Jewel for Associate Grand Patron shall be a Five-pointed Star with a Star in the center within a Pentagon.

The Jewels for Grand Chapters shall be the same as Subordinate Chapters within a Pentagon.

The Jewels for the General Grand Chapter shall be the Grand Chapter Jewels within a circle.

Special Regalia for Grand Chapters shall be left to the discretion of each Grand Chapter.

In addition to the Jewel worn by the Worthy Matron, she is entitled to wear a Scarf made of royal purple velvet, three inches wide, edged with

gold lace on the inner edge, and gold fringe on the outer edge, a five-pointed Star in colors worked in silk, upon the shoulder and at the crossing, a golden rosette with two gold tassels suspended therefrom. It must be worn from left shoulder to the right side.

MEMBERS' BADGES.

During Chapter sessions members shall wear upon the left breast a badge embracing a five-pointed Star and the five colors of the Order.

MATRON.

PATRON.

ASSO. MATRON.

SECRETARY.

TREASURER.

CONDUCTRESS.

A. CONDUCTRESS.

CHAPLAIN.

WARDER.

SENTINEL.

MARSHAL.

ORGANIST.

ADAH.

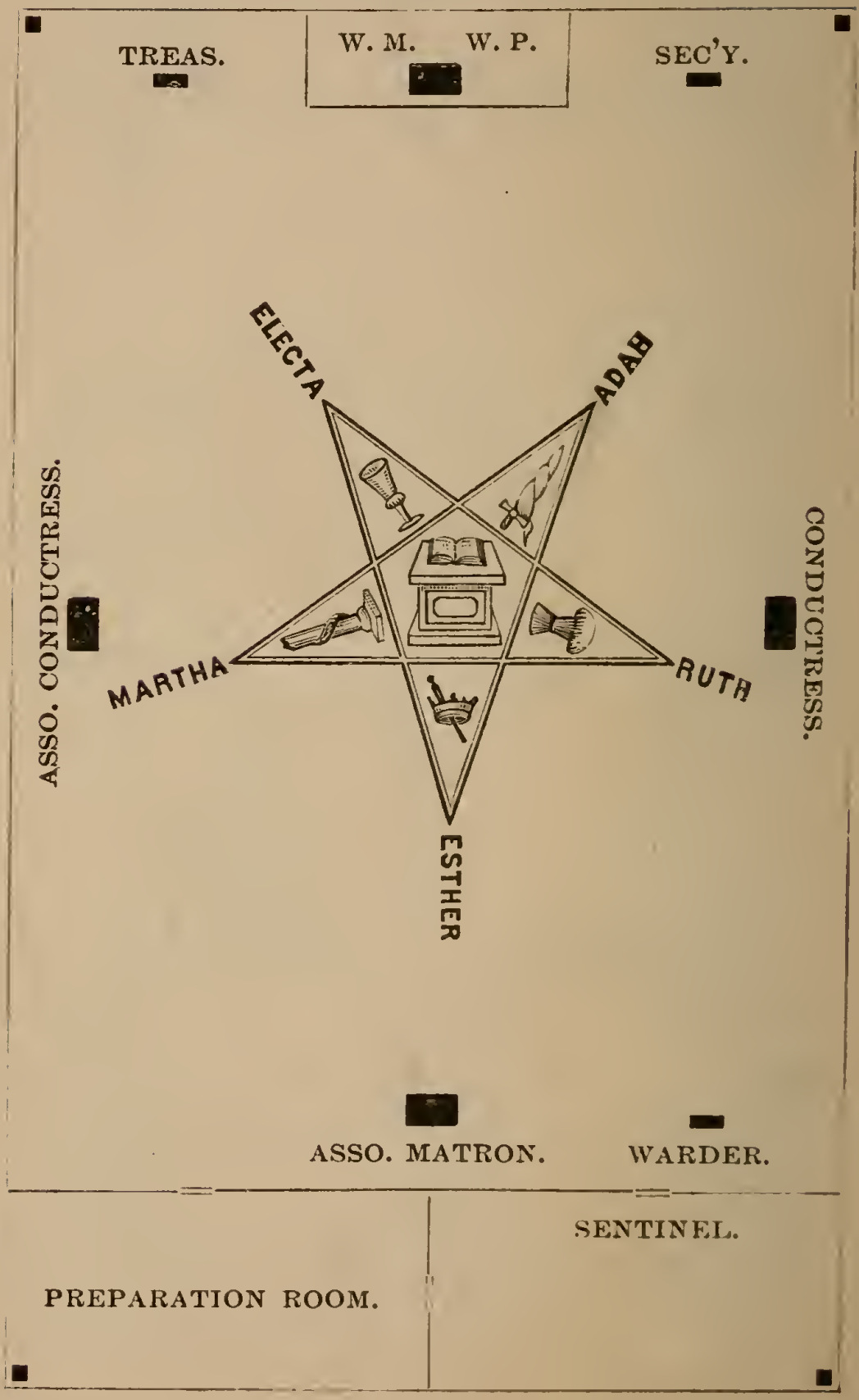
RUTH.

ESTHER.

MARTHA.

ELECTA.

CHAPTER ROOM.



FURNITURE, ETC.

In the center of the Chapter room there should be an Altar, standing upon the center of a Five-pointed Star, having the five colors of the Order, with the white point towards the west. Upon the Altar should be an open Bible.

In the East, there should be a pedestal with a Gavel thereon for the use of the presiding officer.

Each Chapter should have a Seal, Signet, and one or more small Bibles, a Sword and Veil for Adah, Culms of Barley for Ruth, a Crown and Scepter for Esther, a Broken Column for Martha, and a Cup for Electa; they may also have banners with appropriate emblems thereon.

POSITION OF THE CHAIRS.

The chairs for the Star Officers may either face the East, or incline toward the Altar.

USE OF THE GAVEL.

One blow of the gavel calls the Chapter to order, seats it when standing, and completes its closing; two blows call up the Officers; and three blows call up the Chapter.

RAPS.

When giving an alarm at the door, five raps shall be given, which shall be answered by five from the other side, these will be followed by one

from each side. Raps are given in this manner, ** ** * *. The door will be opened by the Warder.

GRAND HONORS.

The Grand Honors are given by crossing the arms over the breast, the left being over the right, and slightly bowing.

Opening of the Chapter.

When ready for the opening exercises, the Officers with the exception of the Worthy Patron, and Associate Conductress, retire to the anteroom. The Associate Conductress assumes her chair, and the Worthy Patron, ascending the dais, gives one blow with the gavel. After requesting all present who are not members of the Order to retire, he says :

W. P. Sister Associate Conductress.

A. C. Worthy Patron.

Officers rise and respond, whenever addressed, and remain standing until seated by an order from the East.

W. P. You will invite the worthy Matron and other Officers to enter the Chapter room.

The Associate Conductress retires and returns with the officers through the door of the preparation room. As they enter, the Chapter is called up, and music furnished. The officers enter in

two files, led by the Conductress and Associate Conductress, and take positions as follows:

W. M. * * A. M.

War. *		* Esther.
Ruth. *	Altar.	* Martha.
Adah. *		* Electa.
Sec'y. *		* Treas.
Cond. *		* Asso. Cond.

East.

The Worthy Patron will say:

W. P. Sister Conductress, you will escort the Worthy Matron to the East.

She does so, and the Worthy Matron ascending the dais, receives the gavel and proceeds.

The use of the above ceremony is optional.

W. M. The Officers will take their respective stations and prepare for the active duties of the Chapter.

Seats the Chapter.

W. M. Sister Warder.

War. Worthy Matron.

W. M. You will see that the doors to our Chapter are secure.

War. The doors are secure, Worthy Matron.

W. M. It is well. Sisters, Brothers and Visitors of —— Chapter, No. —, the

hour has arrived for us to resume our labors. To open our Chapter in a manner becoming the solemnity of the work, and to secure the best results, I require your attention and assistance. Sister Associate Matron.

A. M. Worthy Matron.

W. M. You will ascertain if all present are members of the Order and entitled to its privileges.

If the Associate Matron is able of her own knowledge to vouch for all present, she responds at once to the Worthy Matron. If she is unable to do so, she says:

A. M. Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, ascertain and report if all present are members of the Order.

The Conductress and Associate Conductress will use the customary means of examination, beginning at the East, on the South and North, meeting at the West, back of Esther. The Associate Conductress reporting to the Conductress.

Having done so, the Conductress says:

Cond. Sister Associate Matron. I find all present members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

The Associate Matron will then respond:

A. M. Worthy Matron, all present are members of the Order and entitled to its privileges.

W. M. It is well. Sister Warder.

War. Worthy Matron.

W. M. You will instruct the Sentinel that we are about to engage in the ceremony of opening our Chapter, and direct him to allow no interruption, while we are thus engaged.

The Warder, in due order, ** ** * * after responses from the Sentinel, opens the doors and repeats the order to the Sentinel, after which she closes the door and says:

War. Worthy Matron, there will be no interruption.

The Worthy Matron will call up the Officers and they will remain standing during the ceremony of opening.

W. M. Sister Associate Matron.

A. M. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What number of Officers constitute a Chapter, and what titles do they bear?

A. M. A complete Chapter requires fourteen, and their titles are: Worthy

Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Secretary, Treasurer, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, Warder, Sentinel, and may have Chaplain, Marshal and Organist.

W. M. Where is the Sentinel's station?

A. M. Outside the closed door.

W. M. What is his duty and explain his badge of office.

A. M. To protect the Chapter against the intrusion of improper persons. His badge is the Cross-swords within the Star, an emblem of protection, admonishing him that upon his watchful care depends our security against interruption.

W. M. Where is the Warder's station?

A. M. At the southwest entrance to the Chapter, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Warder.

War. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty and explain your badge of office.

War. To act in conjunction with the Sentinel, and allow none to enter or leave the Chapter, without permission of the presiding officer. My badge is the Dove

within the Star, an emblem of peace, admonishing me that I should labor for the peace and harmony of the Chapter.

W. M. Where is the Associate Conductress' station?

War. In the North, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Associate Conductress.

A. C. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty, and explain your badge of office.

A. C. To receive and prepare candidates for the ceremony of initiation, and assist the Conductress in the active duties of the Chapter. My badge is the Baton within the Star, an emblem of direction admonishing me that good discipline is essential to the success of our Order.

W. M. Where is the Conductress' station?

A. C. In the South, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Conductress.

Cond. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty and explain your badge of office.

Cond. To assist the Associate Matron, conduct candidates through the ceremony

of initiation, and obey your instructions. My badge is the Scroll and Baton within the Star, an emblem of prepared plans and their fulfillment, admonishing me that it depends greatly upon the manner of conducting candidates through the ceremony of initiation, to make the first impressions permanent, and as we desire they should be.

W. M. Where is the Treasurer's station?

Cond. In the North-east, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Treasurer.

Treas. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty, and explain your badge of office.

Treas. To receive all moneys from the Secretary, giving my receipt therefor, and pay them out only upon proper authority. My badge is the Cross-keys within the Star, an emblem of security, admonishing me to the strictest fidelity in the discharge of my important trust, that the Chapter may not be embarrassed in its efforts to relieve the distressed and meet its necessary expenses.

W. M. Where is the Secretary's station?

Treas. In the South-east, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Secretary.

Secy. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty, and explain your badge of office.

Secy. To make proper record of the proceedings of the Chapter, and conduct its correspondence. To receive all moneys belonging to the Chapter, and pay them to the Treasurer, taking her receipt therefor. My badge is the Cross-pens within the Star, an emblem of intelligence, admonishing me to be faithful to my trust, that the good deeds of my companions may not go unrecorded.

W. M. Where is Adah's station?

Secy. At the first point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Adah.

Adah. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty, and explain your badge of office.

Adah. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge and beauty

of the Blue ray, which represents the sky when all clouds have vanished, and symbolizes Fidelity. My badge is the Sword and Veil within the Triangle, an emblem of the heroic conduct of Jephthah's daughter.

W. M. Have you a sign?

Adah. I have; it is given by—

While giving the sign explain from secret work. (3.)

W. M. Sisters and Brothers, on seeing this sign given, how would you respond?

Response. Members will respond with the Pass of Adah.

W. M. Where is Ruth's station?

Adah. At the second point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Ruth.

Ruth. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty, and explain your badge of office.

Ruth. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge and beauty of the Yellow ray, whose golden hue symbolizes Constancy. My badge is the Sheaf within the Triangle, an emblem of plenty,

and represents the reward of patient industry gained by the humble gleaner Ruth.

W. M. Have you a sign?

Ruth. I have; it is given by—

While giving the sign explain from secret work. (6.)

W. M. Sisters and Brothers, on seeing this sign given how would you respond?

Response. Members will respond with the Pass of Ruth.

W. M. Where is Esther's station?

Ruth. At the third point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Esther.

Esther. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty, and explain your badge of office.

Esther. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge, and beauty of the White ray, which symbolizes Light, Purity, and Joy. My badge is the Crown and Scepter within the Triangle, an emblem of royalty and power. In the exercise of authority, we should be governed by justice and unselfish loyalty to the welfare of others. It was by the practice of

these virtues that Esther was able to save her people from extermination.

W. M. Have you a sign?

Esther. I have ; it is given by—

While giving the sign explain from secret work. (9.)

W. M. Sisters and Brothers, on seeing this sign given how would you respond?

Response. Members will respond with the Pass of Esther.

W. M. Where is Martha's station?

Esther. At the fourth point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Martha.

Martha. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty, and explain your badge of office.

Martha. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge and beauty of the Green ray, an emblem of nature's life and beauty, symbolizing Hope and Immortality. My badge is the Broken Column within the Triangle, an emblem of the death of a person, cut off in the vigor of life, and should remind us of the sisterly grief of Martha.

W. M. Have you a sign?

Martha. I have; it is given by—

While giving the sign, explain from secret work. (12.)

W. M. Sisters and Brothers, on seeing this sign given how would you respond?

Response. Members will respond with the Pass of Martha.

W. M. Where is Electa's station?

Martha. At the fifth point of the Star, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Electa.

Electa. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty, and explain your badge of office.

Electa. To make known to all proper inquirers the light, knowledge, and beauty of the Red ray, a symbol of that Fervency which should actuate all who are engaged in the service of truth, as exemplified in the life of Electa. My badge is the Cup within the Triangle, an emblem of charity and hospitality, and should remind us that however bitter may be the cup which our Heavenly Father gives us, it will in the

end overflow with blessings, rich, abounding, and eternal.

W. M. Have you a sign?

Electa. I have; it is given by—

While giving the sign, explain from secret work. (15.)

W. M. Sisters and Brothers, on seeing this sign given how would you respond?

Response. Members will respond with the Pass of Electa.

W. M. It is well; and when a member of the Order hails us with any one of these signs we will recall the merits of the heroine whose sign is given, and respond with proper attention.

W. M. Where is the Associate Matron's station?

Electa. In the West, Worthy Matron.

W. M. Sister Associate Matron.

A. M. Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is your duty, and explain your badge of office.

A. M. To assist the Worthy Matron, and preside over the Chapter during her absence. My badge is the effulgent Sun within the Star, an emblem of light, admonishing me that the principles of our

Order should shine with undiminished lustre through our lives.

W. M. Where is the Worthy Patron's station?

A. M. At your left, Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is his duty, and explain his badge of office.

A. M. To preside during the conferring of the degrees, and at other times when requested to do so by the Worthy Matron; to act as her adviser, see that the officers are proficient in their work, and exercise a general supervision over the affairs of the Chapter. His badge is the Square and Compasses within the Star, an emblem of the relationship existing between the Masonic Fraternity and the Order of the Eastern Star.

W. M. Where is the Worthy Matron's station?

A. M. In the East, Worthy Matron.

W. M. What is her duty, and explain her badge of office.

A. M. To preside at the meetings of the Chapter, see that its business is properly conducted, and secure obedience to the laws and regulations of the Order.

Her badge is the Gavel within the Star, an emblem of authority, admonishing her that the government of this Chapter, and its prosperity, depend greatly upon her judgment and discretion. Her responsibilities to God for the faithful discharge of her duties should ever prompt her to do her work in the spirit of faith and prayer.

W. M. It is in this spirit that I desire to open this Chapter, and perform whatever duties may devolve upon me. That we may have the needed grace to do our work well, let us unite in prayer.

The Chapter is called up, and the following Prayer is offered by the Worthy Patron or Chaplain at the Altar, approaching between Martha and Esther.

PRAYER.

Bless, O Lord, we beseech Thee, our humble labors in the promotion of truth and love, unity and peace. Dispel whatever spirit of discord may here arise. Enrich our hearts with that most excellent gift of charity, so that our acts may be full of the spirit of kindness and forbearance one towards another. Give us strength to continue in every good work. and faith to believe that we shall reap if we faint not: and at last may we enjoy the blessedness which Thou hast prepared for those that love Thee. AMEN.

Response by all the members.

So may it ever be.

The Worthy Patron or Chaplain steps back into the circle of Star officers, between Esther and Martha facing East, remaining in that position until the Worthy Matron seats the Chapter when he returns to his station.

W. M. Let us unite in singing our Opening Ode.

SINGING.

W. M. Sister Conductress, you will attend at the Altar.

Conductress approaches the Altar between Ruth and Esther, makes a slight bow, opens the Bible, gives the sign of salutation, and steps back into the circle of Star officers between Ruth and Esther, remaining there until seated by the Worthy Matron.

W. M. I now declare —— Chapter, No. — Order of the Eastern Star, duly opened for the transaction of business. Sister Warder, you will so instruct the Sentinel.

The Warder in due order ** ** * * opens the door, informs the Sentinel, and after closing the door, says:

War. Worthy Matron, your order has been obeyed.

The W. M. seats the Chapter.

Closing of the Chapter.

W. M. Sister Associate Matron.

A. M. Worthy Matron.

W. M. Do you know of any further business to come before the Chapter at this time?

A. M. Worthy Matron, there is none within my knowledge.

W. M. Sister Warder.

War. Worthy Matron.

W. M. You will inform the Sentinel that we are about to close the Chapter, and direct him to permit no interruption while we are thus engaged.

The Warder in due order ** ** * * opens the door and informs the Sentinel.

War. Worthy Matron, your order has been obeyed.

W. M. It is well ; let us unite in singing our Closing Ode.

Calls up the Chapter.

SINGING.

The prayer will be offered at the Altar as in opening.

W. M. Let us unite in prayer.

PRAYER.

Holy and merciful God ! who answereth prayer and doth not scorn the petition of the humblest of Thy children ! Bestow upon us in our parting that spirit of affection which can resist the selfishness of the world, and cause us to remember our obligations to each other and to Thee. Grant that we may all be permitted with loving hearts to assemble here again, for our instruction, for Thine honor, and for the good of our fellow men. All of which we ask for Thy name's sake. AMEN.

Response by all the members.

So may it ever be.

The Worthy Patron or Chaplain steps back into the circle of Star officers between Esther and Martha facing East, remaining in that position until the Worthy Matron closes the Chapter.

W. M. Sister Conductress, you will attend at the Altar.

Conductress approaches the Altar as before, with the Sign of Salutation, closes the Bible, makes a slight bow, steps back into the circle of Star officers between Ruth and Esther, remaining until Chapter is closed.

W. M. Sisters and Brothers, we go forth into the world not knowing what trials may await us in the journey of life. Let us not be dismayed, for our Heavenly Father has promised to strengthen and uphold us by the right hand of his power. Farewell.

Response by all the members.

FAREWELL.

W. M. I now declare —— Chapter, No. —, closed. Sister Warder, you will so instruct the Sentinel.

The Worthy Matron gives one blow with the gavel. The Warder informs the Sentinel that the Chapter is closed.

Initiation Ceremonies.

The Initiation Ceremony is the same for gentlemen as for ladies, and both may receive the degrees at the same time. The necessary changes in language must be made as circumstances require. The time having arrived for initiation, and it being probable that candidates are in waiting, if robes are used, the officers retire, and prepare for the ceremony of initiation.

W. M. Sister Associate Conductress.

A. C. Worthy Matron.

W. M. You will retire and ascertain if there are candidates in waiting to receive the degrees.

The Associate Conductress advances to the west of the Altar, gives the Sign of Salutation, and (the Warder having given the usual raps and opened the door,) retires. Ascertaining the name of the candidate, she returns, and standing west of the Altar, gives the Sign of Salutation and says:

A. C. Worthy Matron, I find in waiting ..... who is desirous of being initiated into our Order.

The Worthy Matron invites the Worthy Patron to preside for the purpose of conferring the degrees. The Worthy Patron, taking the chair, says:

W. P. Sister Secretary.

Sec'y. Worthy Patron.

W. P. Has this candidate been elected to receive the degrees of the Order?

Sec'y. She has, Worthy Patron.

W. P. Sister Associate Conductress, you will retire and prepare the candidate for the ceremonies of initiation.

She gives the sign, and retires as before. Taking the candidate into the preparation room, she says:

A. C. Do you believe in the existence of a Supreme Being? *Ans.* I do.

My friend, human life is a labyrinth through which we all wander blindly, and too often, in ignorance. It is good to consider the experience of others, and profit by their knowledge and example. Having received the degrees of our Order, and therefore being able to assist you, permit me to direct your preparation for the ceremonies of initiation.

She then removes the candidate's hat, gloves and shawl or cloak, prepares and leads her to the

door of the Chapter-room. The Associate Conductress gives five raps upon the door, ** ** *

Cond. Worthy Patron, there is an alarm at the door of the preparation room.

W. P. Sister Conductress, you will ascertain the cause of the alarm.

The Conductress goes to the door, answers the alarm, ** ** * * and opening the door, says:

Cond. Who knocks at the door of our Chapter?

A. C. The Associate Conductress with a candidate, who desires to be initiated into our Order.

Cond. Is she properly prepared?

A. C. She is.

Cond. My friend, you will wait until further orders are received from the Worthy Patron.

The Conductress closes the door, and, advancing to a position in front of the Associate Matron, facing the East, says:

Cond. Worthy Patron, the alarm was caused by the Associate Conductress with a candidate, who desires to receive the degrees of our Order.

W. P. Is the candidate properly prepared?

Cond. She is.

W. P. You will admit her.

The Conductress returning to the door, opens it wide, and says:

Cond. It is the order of the Worthy Patron that you be admitted to our Chapter.

Before the door is opened to receive the candidate the lights may be turned down, and soft music played during this lecture by the Conductress. The candidate is led inside the door and stopped. The Conductress then says to her:

Cond. You have doubtless well considered the step you have taken in seeking admission to this Order, dedicated to Charity, Truth, and Loving-kindness. You came here of your own free choice. Complain not, therefore, at any trial. A seal is here set upon your lips. Let it warn you to be ever silent and secret, as to all that may be made known to you here. Be not weary in well-doing. Woe unto those who seek to take upon themselves burdens which they cannot bear.

Woe unto the faithless and insincere, who assume obligations lightly and forthwith forget them. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths."

Conductress offers her right arm to the candidate. If there are two the Associate Conductress offers her left arm to the candidate and in like manner follows with the second. The Associate Conductress assists only when necessary to form couples. The candidate is conducted once around the room to the Associate Matron. Officers and members always observe square corners.

During the march, vocal or instrumental music is furnished, or the Worthy Patron may recite the following:

W. P. "Though I speak with the tongues of men, and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal."

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind: charity envieth not."

"Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth."

"And now abideth Faith, Hope and Charity, but the greatest of these is Charity."

Having arrived at the West, the candidate is introduced to the Associate Matron.

Cond. Sister Associate Matron.

A. M. Sister Conductress.

Cond. I have the honor of introducing ..... who is to be presented by you to the Worthy Matron.

A. M. My friend, you are heartily welcome. Sister Conductress, you will cause the candidate to face the East.

Conductress and candidate face the East.

A. M. Worthy Matron, I have the honor to present.....whose petition has been approved by this Chapter, and who is now ready to assume our Obligation.

The Worthy Matron rises and addresses the candidate.

W. M. It is with pleasure that I welcome you into this Chapter. Your relation to the Masonic fraternity, and the recommendations presented in your behalf, assure us that you merit the honor we confer, and are worthy of the important trust with which we are about to invest you. The Order of the Eastern Star exists for the purpose of giving practical effect to one of the beneficent purposes of Freemasonry, which is to provide for the wel-

fare of the wives, daughters, mothers, widows, and sisters of Master Masons.

Here they may share with the Masonic brother in promulgating the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Here we may aid, comfort, and protect each other in our journey through the labyrinth of human life, and by cheerful companionship and social enjoyments, lighten the burdens of active duty.

By means of secret signs, and other work of the Order, we are able to make ourselves known to each other wherever we may meet.

We are governed by the laws and regulations of the Grand Chapter, and by a code of By-Laws framed by ourselves. These we are bound to obey so long as we remain members of the Order, and in this obedience, we shall expect you to share.

Addressing the Worthy Patron, the Worthy Matron says:

Worthy Patron, it is with pleasure that I introduce to you this candidate, who is prepared to assume the Obligation of the Order.

W. P. The obligation you are about to take is a solemn pledge which you must give to this Chapter, before you can participate in the privileges of our Order. By it you bind yourself to the most solemn secrecy respecting the work of the Order, and to the performance of those acts of kindness and forbearance, which are essential to our welfare and prosperity.

With this knowledge of its requirements are you willing to proceed?

Cand. I am.

W. P. Sister Conductress, you will cause the candidate to be in proper position at the Altar to receive the Obligation. (1.)

During the march there should be vocal or instrumental music.

Cond. Worthy Patron, the candidate is in proper position.

The Chapter is called up, and the Worthy Patron takes his position on the east side of the Altar, and causes the candidate to repeat after him the following. Soft music may be played during obligation.

OBLIGATION.

* * * (2.) * * *

W. P. Arise, my sister, we accept the pledge you have given, and share with you in this solemn Obligation.

The Conductress takes the Bible from the candidate, when the Worthy Patron says: "Arise, my sister," he extends his right hand and assists the candidate in rising, the lights are suddenly turned up at the same time.

W. P. You will now be received into our Order and be conducted to the several points of the Star, where you will receive instruction in those sublime virtues exemplified in the lives of Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electa.

The Worthy Patron returns to the East, and seats the Chapter.

The Conductress and candidate will leave the Altar on the right, passing out between Electa and Adah, leaving Adah on the right, all around the outside of the Star to Adah for instruction.

During the march there should be vocal or instrumental music, or the Worthy Patron may recite the following:

W. P. "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding."

"She is more precious than rubies, and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her."

"Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

Cond. Sister Adah.

Adah rises and takes her position at the right of her chair; after each lecture the Star Officer will remain in her position, standing until the Conductress and candidate have passed her, then be seated.

Adah. Sister Conductress.

Cond. I present this Sister, who, having assumed our Obligation, will receive from you such lessons respecting fidelity to convictions of right and duty, as may properly be drawn from the history of Jephthah's Daughter.

Adah. Jephthah was the ninth judge and one of the mightiest men in Israel. Being called upon, in the extremity of his country's trials, to go at the head of its armies, he prepared his household for a campaign that would perhaps cost him his life; and then "Jephthah vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, 'If thou shalt deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands then it shall be that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering.'" Jephthah went

forth to battle, the victory was gained, and the victorious warrior returned to Mizpeh. The door of his house opened, and, "behold! his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances," and she was his only child. Jephthah, when he saw her, rent his clothes, and in the anguish of his heart, cried aloud, "Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back." Adah replied, "My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the Lord, do to me according to that which has proceeded out of thy mouth." She asked that she might go among the mountains for two months, and there prepare her mind for the solemn surrender of her life to preserve her father's honor.

When the two months had expired, she was seen, followed by her friends, winding her way down the mountain's side to the altar, where her father with an almost broken heart was prepared to fulfil his vow.

She approached her father with a kiss of affection and bade him farewell. Taking hold of the veil she wore, he threw it over her face, and drew his sword. But she unveiled herself, and said she need not have her face covered for she was not

afraid to die. Her father replied that he could not strike the blow while she looked upon him, and again cast it over her. She threw it off the second time, and said she would look upward, that his arm might not be unnerved by her gaze. A third time, however, he insisted, and a third time she as resolutely cast it off, this time holding the ends of it firmly in her hands and casting her eyes upward, invited the fatal blow. And a deed was consummated which has rendered the name of Jephthah's Daughter famous in the annals of Scripture.

The sign of this degree is given by—

Repeat from secret work. (3.)

The pass. (4.)

The color appropriate to this degree is blue, which symbolizes fidelity, and teaches us to be faithful to all moral obligations.

The emblems are the Sword and Veil. By the sword Adah was slain. The veil alludes to her determination to die in the light, suffering no stain to rest upon her memory.

Sister Conductress, you will present this sister at the second point of the Star for further instruction.

The Conductress will lead the candidate around Adah's chair, leaving the chair to the right, then across the Star, leaving the Altar to the left, around Martha's chair, passing to Ruth for instruction. After each lecture the labyrinth is followed in a similar manner, always leaving the chairs to the right and the Altar to the left. From Ruth around Electa to Esther; from Esther around Adah to Martha; from Martha around Ruth to Electa; from Electa around Esther to the Worthy Patron.

During the march there should be vocal or instrumental music, or the Worthy Patron may recite the following:

W. P. "And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and behold, his daughter came out to meet him, with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter."

"And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me; for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back."

Cond. Sister Ruth.

Ruth rises and takes her position at the right of her chair.

Ruth. Sister Conductress.

Cond. I present this sister to be instructed in the duty of obedience to the demands of honor and justice in all condi-

tions of life, as illustrated in the history of Ruth.

Ruth. About eleven hundred years before the Christian era, Elimeleck and his wife Naomi, with their two sons, were driven by famine from Bethlehem to the land of Moab. The sons married women of Moab named Ruth and Orphah. After a few years, Elimeleck and his sons died, leaving Naomi, Ruth and Orphah in mourning. Naomi, aged and dependent, resolved to return to the land of her nativity. She urged Ruth and Orphah to remain with their kindred and friends, rather than follow her in poverty to a land of strangers. But Ruth believed it to be her duty to remain with Naomi and assist in her maintenance, saying, "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee : for whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

They arrived in Bethlehem, destitute, weary and worn, and Ruth was compelled to seek through menial labor the means of support for herself and the aged Naomi. Faithful to the duties which adverse fortune had thrown upon her, she became a gleaner in the fields of Boaz, who said to his servant that was set over his reapers, "Whose

damsel is this?" Upon being informed of her history, her devotion to Naomi, and present circumstances, advanced to where she was resting and addressed to her kindly words of encouragement. Ruth raised her hands to show him how small were her gleanings, and that she had not taken from the sheaves; placed them meekly upon her breast as proof of her willingness to submit to whatever lot she might be called upon to endure, casting her eyes upward, as appealing to God.

He ordered his reapers to drop handfuls of barley that she might gather a supply, and invited her to eat and drink of the provisions he had supplied. Ruth was encouraged; and at evening, returned laden with the fruits of her toil to gladden the heart of Naomi. My sister, be faithful to the duties of your station; ever teaching that honor and justice which Ruth protrayed in the touching and beautiful incidents of her life.

The sign of this degree is given by—

Repeat from secret work. (6.)

The pass. (7.)

The color appropriate to this degree is yellow, whose golden hue symbolizes constancy, teaching faithful obedience to the demands of honor and justice.

The Sheaf is an emblem of plenty, and from its collection of minute parts, teaches that by patient industry, gathering here a little and there a little, we may provide for the infirmities of age.

Sister Conductress, you will present this sister at the third point of the Star for further instruction.

The candidate is conducted around Ruth's chair, leaving the chair to the right, then across the Star, leaving the Altar to the left, around Electa's chair to Esther for instruction.

During the march there should be vocal or instrumental music, or the Worthy Patron may recite the following :

"And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord be with you: and they answered him, The Lord bless thee. "

"Then said Boaz unto his servant, that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this? "

"And the servant, that was set over the reapers, answered and said : It is the damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab. "

Cond. Sister Esther.

Esther rises and takes her position at the right of her chair.

Esther. Sister Conductress.

Cond. I present this sister to be instructed in the commendable virtue of fidelity to kindred and friends as exemplified in the history of Esther.

Esther. Esther was a Jewish damsel, living about five hundred years before the Christian era. The Jews were then held in captivity within the Persian empire. After the divorce of Queen Vashti, the king caused search to be made throughout the empire for the most beautiful woman, to be her successor. The choice fell upon Esther, who, amid national rejoicing and royal magnificence, became the queen of Persia.

The knowledge of her descent from the captive race was carefully concealed from the king and his court. In due time the enemies of the Jews, being powerful and numerous, persuaded the king to issue a royal edict commanding that upon a given day the entire Hebrew race should be destroyed.

Queen Esther, when informed of the cruel edict, resolved to risk the loss of royal favor and life itself, to save her people from death.

It was a law of the palace that no one, not even the queen, should enter the king's presence unsummoned, under penalty of death, unless the king should extend the golden sceptre as a signal of pardon.

Esther, attired in her queenly apparel, with heroic purpose, sought the presence of the king. It was the day of the grand

council of governors, princes and officers of Persia. The royal guards held all avenues of approach to the council chamber. The king sat upon his throne of gold and ivory, surrounded by the highest officials of his empire. The queen approached. The guards and palace officials were stricken with terror at the unbidden advance of the queen. The king's countenance flushed with anger when he beheld her intrusion. Queen Esther, fixing her eyes, now eloquent with her soul's heroic purpose upon the king, firmly advanced to the foot of the throne, at once reminding him of his former pledges by touching her crown and robe in which he had desired her to appear when claiming his promise. She secured pardon by laying her hand upon the golden sceptre which he extended to her. Graciously, said the king, "What wilt thou, Queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom." Esther's perilous adventure was successful.

The king relented from his cruel purpose, and spared the chosen people.

The sign of this degree is given by—

Repeat from secret work. (9.)

The pass. (10.)

The color appropriate to this degree is white; a symbol of light, purity, and joy, and should teach us that a pure and upright life is above the tongue of reproach.

The Crown and Sceptre united is an emblem of royalty and power.

Sister Conductress, you will present this sister at the fourth point of the Star for further instruction.

The candidate is conducted around Esther's chair, leaving the chair to the right across the Star. leaving the Altar to the left, around Adah's chair to Martha for instruction.

During the march there should be vocal or instrumental music, or the Worthy Patron may recite the following:

W. P. "And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre."

"Then said the king unto her, 'What wilt thou, Queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom."

Cond. Sister Martha.

Martha rises and takes her position at the *left* of her chair.

Martha. Sister Conductress.

Cond. I present this sister to be instructed in the sublime virtue of a trust-

ful faith, in the hour of trial, and hope of immortal life, as illustrated in the history of Martha.

Martha. The history of Martha is that of a young woman oppressed with grief at the loss of an only brother.

The family, consisting of Martha, and Mary, and their brother Lazarus, were residents of Bethany. They were known among the people of the country as followers of Christ. During the absence of Jesus, Lazarus was taken ill, and in a short time died. At the close of the fourth day, intelligence reached them that Jesus was returning to Bethany. Martha hastened to meet him, raising her hands imploringly towards his face, looking upward with suppressed emotion, cried aloud, "Lord if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee."

"Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. "

"Martha saith unto him, 'I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. "

"Jesus saith unto her, I am the Resurrection and the Life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and

whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die. Believest thou this?'" Here is the record of her unfaltering trust; here the record of her hope, inspired by the teachings of Jesus, that beyond the grave, the loved ones gone before are waiting to welcome us to our eternal home.

In the measureless realm of time, how brief is our earthly life; yet how momentous and eternal its issues! Life's experiences, coming thick and fast, are the soul's appointed means of growth. To-day, we build our castles, to-morrow, fickle fortune snatches from hope the promised joy. To-day, prosperity or the presence of loved ones fills our cup with joy; to-morrow, adversity, or sore bereavement casts us into the valley of sorrow.

My sister, may you have the trustful faith of Martha; it will lighten the burden of sorrow, and incline you to the voice of duty.

The sign of this degree is given by—

Repeat from secret work. (12.)

The pass. (13.)

The color appropriate to this degree is green; an emblem of nature's life and beauty, and a symbol of Martha's trustful faith and hope of immortality.

The Broken Column is an expressive emblem of the uncertainty of human life.

Sister Conductress, you will present this sister at the fifth point of the Star for further instruction.

The candidate is conducted around Martha's chair, leaving the chair to the right, then across the Star leaving the Altar to the left, around Ruth's chair to Electa for instruction.

During the march there should be vocal or instrumental music, or the Worthy Patron may recite the following:

W. P. "Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here my brother had not died."

"But I know that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee."

"Jesus saith unto her, thy brother shall rise again."

"Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

"Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall ye live."

"And whosoever liveth, and believeth in me, shall never die."

Cond. Sister Electa.

Electa arises and takes her position at the *left* of her chair.

Electa. Sister Conductress.

Cond. I present this sister to be instructed in the commendable virtue of

heroic endurance of the wrongs of persecution, when demanded in defense of Truth, as illustrated in the lesson of Electa.

Electa. The second epistle of John is addressed to "the *elect* lady and her children." Tradition delineates her as a lady who lived in the days of St. John the Evangelist. Her charity, benevolence, and generous hospitality to the poor entitled her to great distinction.

Having been reared a Pagan and afterwards becoming a convert to the Christian religion, she was subjected to severe trials and the most bitter persecution. An edict was issued by the Roman emperor that all followers of the Christ should renounce their faith under penalty of death. She was visited by a band of soldiers, one of whom handed her the cross, with a command to trample it under foot. Electa, looking him steadily in the face, received the cross—precious emblem of her Saviour's blood—pressed it with ardor to her bosom, and cast her eyes upward as a testimony of her love and loyalty to her Christian faith. As Electa I represent this historical heroine, and commend to you the sublime virtue she exemplified through her life, "that we love one

another." You may not be called upon to suffer in the same degree from the hand of persecution—but there is always need of loyalty to Truth, and, alas, there is too often persecution.

My sister, be loyal to your convictions of truth, and murmur not at another's loyalty. Let truth be spoken, and let it shine through your life. If persecution comes, bear it with heroic endurance, and despair not of the final triumph of Truth.

The sign of this degree is given by—

Repeat from secret work. (15.)

The pass. (16.)

The color appropriate to this degree is red: a symbol of that fervency which should actuate all who are engaged in the service of Truth.

The cup is an emblem of charity and hospitality, and teaches us to extend generous aid to the victims of poverty and distress.

Sister Conductress, you will present this sister to the Worthy Patron for further instruction.

The candidate is conducted around Electa's chair, leaving the chair to the right, then across

the Star, leaving the Altar to the left, around Esther's chair, leaving the labyrinth between Adah and Electa, then to the right once around the Altar , outside the Star to the Worthy Patron.

During the march there should be vocal or instrumental music, or the Worthy Patron may recite the following:

W. P. "Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father."

"And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another."

"And this is love, that we walk after His commandments."

"By this we know that we walk in the truth. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us."

"That we should be called the children of God. That our joy may be full."

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and every one that loveth and knoweth God, is born of God."

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he first loved us. If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

Cond. Worthy Patron, I present to you this sister, who has passed through the labyrinth of our Star, and been instructed in those sublime virtues exemplified by the heroines of our Order.

W. P. We hail with pleasure your coming among us. The work of our Order

is worthy of our earnest labor; and we shall rejoice to find you excelling in zeal our most devoted members. You will now give attention to the address of the Worthy Matron.

W. M. My sister, the Eastern Star is closely related to the Masonic fraternity; and although related to it by the dearest ties, yet it is no part of that ancient institution.

Here the wives, daughters, mothers, widows, and sisters of Masons, may become co-laborers with the great Brotherhood in the service of humanity.

By the laws of that ancient Order, women are not eligible to its degrees. But woman's heart beats responsive to the same inspiration that prompts man to noble deeds.

She hears the cry of the orphan, the call of want, and the piteous wail of sorrow. She honors the Brotherhood for its noble work, and seeks through the Eastern Star, to be a co-worker with the Masonic brother; to pay the tribute of her love and labor at the same shrine, and be able

to make herself known, throughout the domain of Masonry, as being entitled to its protection.

Into this field of labor, you have now entered. You have taken the solemn Obligation of the Order, and been instructed in those sublime virtues which should adorn our lives, and make this institution worthy of the protection and support of all good Masons.

We extend to you a fraternal love, and shall rejoice to learn that your devotion to the great moral and social purposes of our Order, is earnest and persistent.

That the blessing of our Heavenly Father may rest upon our labor, let us unite in prayer.

The Chapter is called up and a circle is formed around the Altar in the following manner by the officers joining hands: Secretary between Adah and Ruth—Associate Matron between Ruth and Esther—Associate Conductress between Esther and Martha—Treasurer between Martha and Electa—the Worthy Matron at the left of Electa. If desired the members may join in forming the circle.

The Worthy Patron or Chaplain will take position at the west side of the Altar. The Con-

ductress with the candidate at her right, will advance to the open space at the left of the Worthy Matron; and when the words "golden chain thus lengthened" in the prayer are being pronounced, the Worthy Matron will extend her left hand and take the right hand of candidate and the Conductress will join the circle at her left, thus making it complete. At the words "each link shall fall away in death," the hands will be unclasped. If a Chaplain officiates the Worthy Patron will remain in his station.

PRAYER.

Source of all wisdom, truth, and love, Grant we beseech Thee, that in the reception of this person into our Order we may add strength to our strength, and grace to our grace. O, may the golden chain thus lengthened become the brighter for this link, and be strengthened for the great work we strive to do. Enlarge our powers to benefit mankind, and to honor Thee our God.

And when, one by one, each link shall fall away in death, may the parting be temporary, and the meeting eternal. In the world where death comes not, may we realize the full happiness of loving and serving Thee forever. AMEN.

Response by the Chapter.

So may it ever be.

At the conclusion of the prayer an Ode may be sung while the members are standing around the Altar. After singing the Worthy Patron seats the Chapter. The Conductress leads the candidate to the East, and the Worthy Matron may, at the request of the Worthy Patron conclude the initiation ceremonies.

W. P. In taking upon yourself the solemn Obligation of our Order, you enter upon a new phase of life ; henceforth you will be numbered among the members of this Order, who have for their inspiration the Star of Bethlehem, which will guide all the faithful to the New Jerusalem, that city not made with hands. I must remind you, that with privileges come responsibilities. You have been informed that we are in possession of certain secrets, by means of which, we are able to make ourselves known to each other wherever we may meet. You have been conducted to the several points of the Star, and been instructed in the secret work of the Order, which, if properly understood, will enable you to make yourself known as a member. That the signs and passes may be more firmly impressed upon your mind, with the assistance of our Conductress, I will repeat them with explanations.

The Conductress will give the signs as the Worthy Patron explains them.

The first is the Daughter's sign, or the sign of Adah. It is given by (3.) It

alludes to the heroic conduct of Jephthah's Daughter.

The Pass is (4.) (5.)

The second is the Widow's sign, or the sign of Ruth. It is given by (6.) It alludes to the humble gleaner Ruth with her handfuls of barley gathered from the fields of Boaz.

The Pass is (7.) (8.)

The third is the Wife's sign, or the sign of Esther. It is given (9.) It alludes to the manner in which Queen Esther saluted the king, reminding him of his promise, by giving a sign which was understood between them.

The Pass is (10.) (11.)

The fourth is the Sister's sign, or the sign of Martha. It is given by (12.) It alludes to Martha's meeting with Jesus.

The Pass is (13.) (14.)

The fifth is the Mother's sign, or the sign of Electa. It is given by (15.) It alludes to heroic submission, under the wrongs of persecution.

The Pass is (16.) being the impressive lesson taught by Electa.

Any member of the Order is at liberty to give any one of these signs when among strangers and desirous of becoming known to a sister or brother. Any member seeing one of these signs given should respond by giving the Pass belonging to the sign given, and asking, (17.)

This is all the examination that is required under such circumstances. It can be followed by such questions as may be necessary. In passing an examination to visit a Chapter, in addition to this, you will be required to give the signs and passes of each degree.

There is one other sign, called the salutation sign, which is given by members on entering or retiring from a Chapter while in session. They shall advance in front of the Associate Matron, and (19.)

The Grip of the Order is given by (20.)

The Conductress will communicate the Grip to the candidate.

The Signet is prepared to assist the memory of those who have received the degrees.

On the outer edge of the central division will be found the (21.)

I will explain the significance of the colors, the emblematic flowers, and the meaning of the several emblems alluding to the distinguished characters portrayed in the degrees.

Blue symbolizes Fidelity. It is represented by the violet.

The open Bible is appropriate to Jephthah's Daughter, as a symbol of obedience to the word of God.

Yellow symbolizes Constancy. It is represented by the yellow jessamine.

The Lily of the Valley is appropriate to Ruth, as a symbol of loveliness among the lowly.

White symbolizes Light, Purity and Joy. It is represented by the white lily.

The Sun is appropriate to Esther, as a symbol of the light and joy she gave to a down-trodden race.

Green symbolizes Hope and Immortality. It is represented by the fern.

The Lamb is appropriate to Martha, as a symbol of innocence and humility.

Red symbolizes Fervency. It is represented by the red rose.

The Lion is appropriate to Electa, as a symbol of the courage and power, that sustained the martyr defenders of Truth.

And, finally, my sister, Jephthah's Daughter, because she freely sacrificed her life to preserve her father's honor; Ruth, poor and lowly, was faithful to the demands of honor and justice; Esther, noble queen, was prepared to sacrifice her crown and life, to save her people from destruction; Martha, from her trustful faith and hope of immortal life; and Electa, pre-eminent in charity, and heroic in endurance of the wrongs of persecution; were (18.)

So may it be with you. As you illustrate in your life the virtues of these tried servants of God, so shall be your reward.

You will now be conducted to the Secretary's desk, where you will sign the By-Laws of this Chapter, and become entitled to all the privileges of membership; after which you will be re-conducted to your present position.

While the candidate is signing the By-Laws, there may be vocal or instrumental music. After signing the By-Laws the candidate is conducted

to the preparation room, disrobes if robes are used, a badge of the Order put on, and conducted to the East, facing West. When the door opens for the Conductress and candidate to return, the Chapter is called up, and all join in singing a welcome song, after which the Worthy Patron says:

W. P. Sisters and Brothers, our sister has passed through the several degrees of our Order, we hope with some pleasure to her, and we know with great satisfaction to us. You will give her a hearty welcome and resume order at the sound of the gavel.

The Chapter takes a recess.

Installation Ceremonies.

These ceremonies may be performed in public. If at a special meeting the Chapter will be declared open with one blow of the Gavel. If regular it may be opened in an adjacent room and business postponed, adjourning to the Hall for installation, after which the Worthy Matron will declare the Chapter closed.

The Installing Officer must be a Present or Past Matron or Patron. The first board of officers of a new Chapter must be installed by a Grand Matron or Patron, or a Deputy; who also may install the officers of any Chapter when requested to do so by the Chapter.

The Installing Officer, after assuming the chair, will appoint a Marshal, who will collect the several badges of office, and place them where they will be convenient for use. The Secretary will furnish the Marshal with a list of the officers to be installed. If the installation is a public one, an address may be delivered touching the history and purposes of the Order.

If a Grand officer presides, the Marshal will be Grand Marshal. The officers will be addressed by

their titles and such changes made in the language of the following ceremonies as the circumstances require.

Music, vocal or instrumental, may be introduced as may seem best.

After the appointment of the Marshal and the collection of the badges of office, the installing officer will proceed as follows:

I. O. Sisters and Brothers, the selection of a new board of officers is an important event in the history of a Chapter. The welfare of this Chapter, and the prosperity of our Order in this place, may be permanently effected by the action of those whom you have chosen to serve as the officers of this Chapter for the ensuing year. Before investing them with official authority we will invoke the blessing of Him from whom cometh all wisdom and strength. Let us unite in prayer.

The Chapter is called up, and the Installing Officer or Chaplain offers at the altar the following

PRAYER.

Our Father, who art in Heaven, whose wisdom and goodness manifest themselves in all the works of creation; with filial love and reverence we invoke Thy blessing upon Thy children here assembled, and grace to consecrate the labors we

have met to perform. We commend to Thy especial care and guidance the officers elect, into whose hands we are about to repose the government of this Chapter. Endue them with a just appreciation of the responsibilities they are about to assume, and may they be ever mindful that a Father's care is always over them, and that Thy all-seeing eye is ever upon them.

Bless and prosper our beloved Order; may it be known and honored among the institutions of the land as one whose foundation is laid upon the enduring principle of Truth. Direct our footsteps in ways of pleasantness and paths of peace, and may all our doings reflect honor upon Thy Holy Name. AMEN.

Response by the Chapter:

So may it ever be.

Seats the Chapter.

I. O. Sister Marshal.

M. Worthy ———

I. O. You will call the roll of officers elect, who, as their names are called, will form a semi-circle on the west side of the altar, facing the East, to receive the Obligation.

The W. M. on the extreme South, then followed by the W. P., A. M., etc. If the Warder and Sentinel are both called from their stations, a brother will be appointed to attend at the door until the

absent officers return. Old officers not re-elected or appointed, may occupy their stations until their successors are installed. When all are in their places, the Marshal will say:

M. Worthy ———, the officers-elect are in order, and await your pleasure.

I. O. Sisters and brothers, you behold those who have been selected as officers to serve you for the ensuing year. Do you still desire that they shall fill the positions to which they have been elected or appointed?

Ans. We do.

Calls up the Chapter.

I. O. You will repeat after me the following

OBLIGATION:

I solemnly and sincerely promise, in the presence of the members of this Chapter, that I will, to the best of my ability, faithfully and impartially perform all the duties belonging to the office for which I have been selected. That I will conform to the By-Laws of this Chapter, and the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Chapter, and do all in my power to promote the welfare and prosperity of our Order.

The Chapter and officers will be seated. The Marshal will present the officers at the altar for

installation, approaching the altar between Adah and Ruth and leaving between Martha and Electa.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Worthy Matron elect for installation.

M. Worthy ———, it is with pleasure that I present for installation Sister ———, who has been elected Worthy Matron of this Chapter for the ensuing year. Our sister is fully aware of the important responsibility that rests upon her in the acceptance of this trust, yet she is willing to assume it, in the hope that by the aid of her sisters and brothers, and the favor of God, she will not prove altogether unworthy of the high honor that has been conferred upon her.

I. O. My sister, before proceeding with your investiture, it is necessary that you signify your assent to those Regulations of the Order, upon the strict observance of which its stability and success depend.

You admit that the name, character, and modes of recognition of the Order of the Eastern Star are unchangeable.

Ans. I do.

You admit that a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being is one of the requirements of the Order.

Ans. I do.

You admit that the utmost care should be taken to admit to membership only such persons as possess a good moral character.

Ans. I do.

You admit that no new Chapter can be legally formed without a Charter or Dispensation from the Grand Chapter within whose jurisdiction it is formed; that no countenance should be given to any illegally formed Chapter, its members, or persons initiated therein.

Ans. I do.

You promise to obey the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Chapter; together with the By-Laws of this Chapter, and to permit no violation of them by its members.

Ans. I do.

You promise that no visitor will be admitted to your Chapter, to witness the secret work of the Order, unless found

legally entitled to do so; and that none will be admitted who would injuriously effect the peace and harmony of the Chapter.

Ans. I do.

You agree to do all in your power to promote the welfare of this Chapter, and to enforce, to the best of your ability, all the rules and regulations of the Order.

Ans. I do.

Members of —— Chapter, you have heard your Worthy Matron elect in the pledges she has made; do you promise to support her in the performance of her duties?

Ans. We do.

My sister, the office of Worthy Matron is one of great responsibility, and it will require your utmost attention, wisdom and forbearance. The members will look to you, not only for counsel in all matters that come before the Chapter, but for advice and sympathy in their troubles and sorrows. It should be your constant study, therefore, how best to cultivate the social virtues, and avoid unpleasant mis-

understandings among the members of your Chapter. You should be cautious in the execution of your trust, courteous to the members, and ever ready to render a helping hand to sisters or brothers in affliction or adversity. You should set an example of good order and punctuality, for only by so doing can you expect similar attention from others. Whatever you would deem praiseworthy in another in your position, you should carefully imitate, and with equal care avoid what would be blameworthy. Within the Chapter it will be your duty to see that its regular meetings are held, and special meetings called, whenever the good of the Chapter demands them; that your subordinates fill their stations with honor and usefulness; that the By-Laws be implicitly obeyed; that the funds, records, rituals, and other property of the Chapter be properly preserved by the officers in whose charge they are placed; that the cry of the widow and orphan shall never be heard in vain; and that this Chapter fails in nothing for which it was estab-

lished. All this you should strive to accomplish by the zealous exercise of your prerogatives as Worthy Matron, to which exalted position your associates have been pleased to elect you.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our sister with the badge of her office.

The Marshal will invest the officers with their badges as she is requested to do so by the Installing Officer.

I. O. Your badge is the Gavel within the Star, an emblem of authority ; admonishing you that upon your judgment and discretion rests the government of this Chapter, and, in a great measure, the prosperity of our beautiful Order.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our sister to her station.

The Worthy Matron will ascend the dais, and, turning towards the Chapter, stand in her station. The Installing Officer will call up the Chapter and say:

I. O. Worthy Matron, behold your sisters and brothers. Sisters and brothers, behold your Worthy Matron, and salute her with the Grand Honors.

The Chapter responds by giving the Grand Honors, after which the Chapter is seated. The Worthy Matron takes the chair on the left of the Installing Officer.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Worthy Patron elect for installation.

M. Worthy ———, I have the pleasure of presenting, for installation, Brother ———, who has been elected Worthy Patron of this Chapter for the ensuing year. His zeal in our cause, and qualifications for the position, assure us that he will discharge the duties to the satisfaction of the Chapter, and the honor and welfare of our Order.

I. O. My brother, you have heard the pledges made by the Worthy Matron previous to her installation. Do you also promise a faithful obedience to all those regulations?

Ans. I do.

I. O. My Brother, the station to which you have been elected is one of the most important within the gift of the members of this Chapter, and your election thereto the highest honor they can confer upon a Brother. From the nature of the Order you are not its chief officer, yet you are expected to have a watchful care over the interests of the Chapter and see that the Laws of the Order are promptly obeyed.

It is your duty to preside during the ceremony of Initiation and at other times when requested to do so by the Worthy Matron; to see that the officers are thoroughly instructed in their duties, and that the ritual work of the Order is properly rendered. It is also your duty to have a general supervision over the affairs of the Chapter, and act as the constitutional adviser of the Worthy Matron. To do this acceptably, you must make yourself thoroughly familiar with the jurisprudence of the Order, as promulgated in its established rules and regulations.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our brother with the badge of his office.

I. O. Your badge is the Square and Compasses within the Star, an emblem of

the relationship existing between the Masonic Fraternity and the Order of the Eastern Star, and admonishes you to be ever mindful of your obligations to the Order.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our brother to his station, at the left of the Worthy Matron.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Associate Matron elect for installation.

M. Worthy ———, I have the pleasure of presenting Sister ———, who has been elected Associate Matron of this Chapter for the ensuing year.

I. O. My Sister, the duties of your position are embodied in the name of your office. You are the assistant to the Worthy Matron in all branches of her responsible charge, and, in her absence, will succeed to all her privileges and prerogatives. It is necessary therefore, that you should make yourself familiar with the

duties of that office, so that you may fill it with credit to yourself and honor to your Chapter.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our sister with the badge of her office.

I. O. Your badge is the Sun within the

Star, an emblem of light, admonishing you that the principles of our Order should shine with undiminished lustre through our lives.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our sister to her station in the West.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Secretary elect.

M. Worthy ———, I have the pleasure of presenting Sister ———, who has been elected Secretary of this Chapter for the ensuing year.

I. O. My sister, yours is a difficult and responsible charge. Failure or neglect on your part will complicate and embarrass all our proceedings, and give us a disgraceful record on the books of the Grand Chapter. It is your duty to note in proper order, the business of our meetings, to collect all

moneys due the Chapter, and forward to the Grand Secretary the necessary returns, as required by the Constitution, and perform such other duties as properly belong to your office.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our sister with the badge of her office.

Your badge is the Cross-pens within the Star, an emblem of intelligence, admonishing you to be faithful to your trust, that the good deeds of your companions may not go unrecorded.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our sister to her station in the South-East.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Treasurer elect.

M. Worthy ———, I have the pleasure of presenting Sister ———, who has been elected Treasurer of this Chapter for the ensuing year.

I. O. My sister, the proper preservation of our funds demands honesty and carefulness on the part of the Treasurer. The money placed in your hands may be required for charitable purposes at the

most unexpected moment, or to meet the necessary expenses of the Chapter.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our sister with the badge of her office.

Your badge is the Cross-keys within the Star, an emblem of security, admonishing you to the strictest fidelity in the discharge of your important trust, that the Chapter may not be embarrassed in its efforts to relieve the distressed and meet its necessary expenses.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our sister to her station in the North-East.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Conductress and Associate Conductress elect.

M. Worthy ———, I have the pleasure of presenting Sister ———, elected to be Conductress, and Sister ———, elected to be Associate Conductress of this Chapter for the ensuing year.

I. O. My sisters, upon you devolves the duty of preparing and conducting through our ceremonies of initiation those who seek the privileges of our Order. It

is important, therefore, that you should fully understand and intelligently perform the duties of your office. The candidates enter our Chapter prepared to receive a favorable impression of our mysteries and aims; if you present these matters aright, throwing sisterly courtesy and dignity around your official proceedings, they will acquire a fond regard for our beautiful Order. Remember, therefore, that it depends greatly upon the manner in which you perform your duties whether the candidates receive favorable impressions from their initiation.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our sisters with their badges of office.

Sister Conductress, your badge is the

Scroll and Baton within the Star, an emblem of prepared plans and their fulfillment, admonishing you that the first impressions made upon candidates are permanent, and should be for good.

Sister Associate Conductress, your badge is the Baton within the Star, an emblem of direction, admonishing you that good discipline is essential to the success of our Order.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our sisters to their stations in the South and North.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Chaplain elect.

M. Worthy ———, I have the pleasure of presenting ——— ———, who has been appointed Chaplain for the ensuing year.

I. O. My ———, we recognize our dependence upon the Source of all Wisdom and Strength, and often invoke the blessing of our Heavenly Father upon our work. It will be your duty to lead the Chapter in its devotions at the altar, and perform such other duties as are appropriate to your office.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our ——— with the badge of his office.

Your badge is the Bible within the Star,

a symbol of the word of God, admonishing you to walk circumspectly, that your life may be void of offense toward God and man.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our ——— to —— station in the East, at the right of the Worthy Matron.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Marshal elect.

M. Worthy ———, I have the pleasure of presenting Sister ———, who has been appointed Marshal for the ensuing year.

I. O. My sister, the position assigned you is one of honor and responsibility. It is your duty to superintend and marshal all processions, assist in all its public and private ceremonies, conduct and proclaim the officers at the time of their installation, and perform such other duties as pertain to your office.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our sister with the badge of her office.

Your badge is the Cross Batons within

the Star, an emblem of direction, admonishing you that courtesy and promptness are essential to the discharge of your duties.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our sister to her station in the South-East.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present for installation the sisters appointed to represent the five rays of our central Star.

M. Worthy ——, I have the pleasure of presenting those who have been appointed to represent the five rays of our central Star. Sister ———, to represent the blue ray of Adah; Sister ———, the yellow ray of Ruth; Sister ———, the white ray of Esther; Sister ———, the green ray of Martha; and Sister ——— , the red ray of Electa.

In the installation of the Star officers, bouquets of flowers, having the appropriate colors for the several points, may be introduced with pleasing effect.

I. O. My sisters, you are the floral center of this Chapter. In our ceremo-

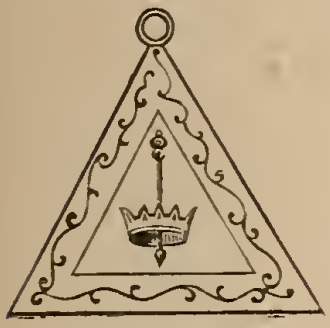
nies, the colors and flowers appropriate to the five points of our Star are endowed with beauty and instruction. To you is assigned the duty of teaching the impressive lessons which those colors and floral emblems symbolize, and the sublime virtues illustrated in the lives of the heroines of our Order. How important, then, that in the discharge of your official duties, you should strive to throw an air of beauty and solemnity around all that you have to say and do, so that from you, as the central Star of this Chapter, may emanate a light that will give instruction and joy to all who attend our meetings.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our sisters with their badges of office.

I. O. Sister Adah, your badge is the Sword and Veil within the Triangle, an emblem of the heroic conduct of Jephthah's Daughter, admonishing you to be ever faithful to your convictions of right and duty.

Sister Ruth, your badge is the Sheaf within the Triangle, an emblem of plenty, admonishing you that patient industry shall not go unrewarded.

Sister Esther, your badge is the Crown and Scepter within the Triangle, an emblem of royalty and power, admonishing you to emulate the virtues of the heroic queen Esther.



Sister Martha, your badge is the Broken Column within the Triangle, an emblem of the uncertainty of human life, admonishing you that the deepest sorrow is often relieved by trustful faith in God.

Sister Electa, your badge is the Cup within the Triangle, an emblem of charity and hospitality, virtues inculcated by the teachings of our Order.

Such, my sisters, are some of the lessons taught by your several badges of office.

The sublime virtues exemplified in the lives of the distinguished heroines whom you represent, are worthy of imitation, and I trust that while you teach those virtues to others, they will be illustrated in your lives. Thus you may honor the positions to which you have been appointed, and lay up for yourselves those Heavenly treasures which shall never fade and which will render you "Fairest among thousands, altogether lovely."

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our sisters to their several stations.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Warder and Sentinel for installation.

M. Worthy ———, I have the pleasure of presenting Sister ———, who has been appointed Warder, and Bro. ———, appointed Sentinel of this Chapter for the ensuing year.

I. O. My sister and brother, you are respectively the inner and outer guards of the Chapter. Upon you, therefore, we

rely to preserve that secrecy which is essential to our proceedings, and to see that the solemnity of our ceremonies is not interrupted by untimely alarms. Be ever watchful in your positions, and allow none to enter or leave the Chapter without permission of the presiding officer.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our sister and brother with their badges of office.

Sister Warder, your badge is the Dove

within the Star, an emblem of peace, admonishing you that peace and harmony are necessary to the success of our Order.

Brother Sentinel, your badge is the

Cross-swords within the Star, an emblem of protection, admonishing you that upon your watchful care depends our security from interruption.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our sister and brother to their stations within and without the door.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will present the Organist elect.

M. Worthy ———, I have the pleasure of presenting Sister ———, who has been appointed Organist for the ensuing year.

I. O. My sister, your duties are embodied in the name of your office. To make the initiation ceremonies as impressive and effective as we desire, it is important that you should be faithful to your trust.

Sister Marshal, you will invest our sister with the badge of her office.

Your badge is the Lyre within the Star, an emblem of music and poetry, admonishing you that by uniting harmony with our mystic rites, the impressions will be more lasting.

Sister Marshal, you will conduct our sister to her station.

I. O. Sisters and Brothers, such is the nature of all associations, that some must

rule and govern, and others submit and obey,

The officers whom you have selected to preside over your deliberations during the ensuing year, are, I trust, sufficiently conversant with the rules of our Order to avoid exceeding the powers with which you have intrusted them.

All things are now ready for you to enter upon the proceedings of a new year. But we know not what is before us. No one can affirm that another year, or even a single day, will be committed to our trust. Therefore, if we have been faithful heretofore, let us increase our exertions for the future.

As among the objects for which we are associated together is our purpose to protect the widow and orphan, comfort the afflicted, sympathize with the sorrowing, and relieve the destitute and distressed, I trust that no discord will ever rise among us to imperil the success of our efforts to accomplish these charitable purposes, and increase the happiness of ourselves and others.

Let us be kind, forbearing and forgiving, one towards another. Let us return kindness for hostility. Let us sacredly preserve our lips from slander and evil speaking; and whatever may be our failings, let us throw around each other the broad mantle of charity. And, finally, let us be governed in words and deeds by the golden rule, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

Thus may we confidently hope that in the good providence of God, each of us will be brought, through a useful and happy life, to a blissful close, and triumphant entrance upon the joys of celestial life.

The Installing Officer then addresses the Worthy Matron, who, as he does so, rises.

Worthy Matron, the officers of your Chapter have been installed into their respective stations, and are prepared to enter upon their duties. You will now receive in charge the Charter, by the

authority of which this Chapter is held, and which must be present at all its meetings. You will also receive the Constitution governing the Order in this State, and the By-laws of this Chapter, both of which you are expected to make yourself thoroughly acquainted with, and see promptly obeyed. I now present to you the Gavel, an emblem of your authority; and as none should disobey it, I confidently hope that you will never use it in an arbitrary or dictatorial manner, remembering that we should charitably temper justice with mercy. You will now assume your station as the Worthy Matron of this Chapter.

The Worthy Matron steps to the center of the dais, and the Installing Officer to the right. The Worthy Matron calls up the Chapter.

I. O. Sister Marshal, you will now proclaim the officers of —— Chapter No.—, regularly installed.

M. In the name of the Grand Chapter and by order of the Worthy ———, I proclaim the officers of —— Chapter No. —, of the Order of the Eastern Star, for the ensuing year, regularly installed.

CEREMONY OF INSTALLATION

Officers of Grand Chapters.

The Grand Chapter being properly opened, as for work, a Past Grand Patron or Grand Matron presiding; if none such be present, then the oldest member being a Past Patron shall take the chair, and, with such assistance as he may appoint, the ceremony shall proceed, as follows:

The Grand Secretary shall call the list of officers, elected and appointed; and, as their names are called, they will form a semi-circle on the west side of the Altar, facing the East, to receive the Obligation; the emblems of office and jewels having been collected at the East; the Worthy Grand Matron on the extreme South, followed by the Worthy Grand Patron, &c.

[This ceremony may be used to install the officers of the General Grand Chapter, by prefixing the words, "Most Worthy" to Grand Matron and Grand Patron, "Right Worthy" to the Associate Grand Matron, Associate Grand Patron, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, and "Very

Worthy" to Grand Chaplain, and "Worthy" before the rest of the Grand Officers. Whenever "Grand Chapter" occurs, prefix the word "General."]

The Grand Marshal will then present the officers to the Grand Matron or Grand Patron.

G. M. Grand ———, I have the pleasure to present to you, for installation, these sisters and brothers, who have been duly elected and chosen to preside over us and assist in conducting the business of this Grand Chapter, and to discharge all other duties appertaining to their several stations until their successors are lawfully chosen and installed.

Installing Officer rises and calls up the Grand Chapter, which is addressed as follows:

Grand ———. Sisters and brothers of the Grand Chapter, these persons, selected by you, are now ready and willing to take upon themselves the obligations, duties and responsibilities of office. In our beautiful Order, preferment to office should not be sought after, but should come to the individual chosen, as an honor justly merited and freely bestowed. Those only should be chosen, who, by

their reputation, their work, and high moral character, command the esteem and confidence of our members, and can give us standing and credit before the world. Do you believe they possess these qualifications, and now desire that they shall be installed into the offices to which they have been chosen?

The Grand Chapter responds:

We do.

Installing Officer continues:

Grand ———. Sisters and brothers-elect, there being no objection against either of you, gives us full assurance of your competency to discharge the reponsible duties to be assigned you. You have been chosen to take charge of the affairs of this Grand Chapter for the ensuing year.

It is no small mark of esteem to be thus selected; let it be your aim to make the ensuing year the most prosperous in the history of this Grand Chapter; then you will find in the record of its prosperity the reward of your faithful service.

You will please give your assent to the obligation of office.

Do you each sacredly promise to support, maintain and enforce the Constitution, By-Laws, and Regulations of this Grand Chapter, be obedient to its orders and directions, and, to the best of your knowledge and ability, impartially and faithfully discharge the duties of your office, and use your utmost endeavors to make yourself useful, and your station honorable, in the office with which I am now about to invest you?

They severally assent, and the Installing Officer will then seat the Grand Chapter, the officers elect being seated together, and the ceremonies will proceed, as follows:

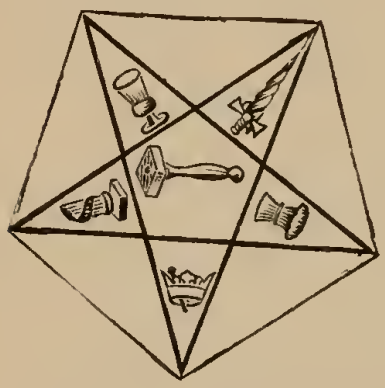
G. M. Grand ———, I have the honor to present, for installation, Sister ———, duly elected Grand Matron for the ensuing year. Our sister is fully aware of the great responsibility she is assuming, in the acceptance of this important position, yet she is willing to undertake it, in the belief that, with the aid and assistance of the sisters and brothers, and by the help

of God, she will not fail in the performance of her duty, and thus prove that the confidence reposed in her has not been misapplied.

Grand ———. Sister ———, you have been elected by the free ballot of the members of this Grand Chapter, to occupy the most exalted position in their power to bestow upon a sister; a just and deserving tribute to your zeal and worth, and I congratulate you upon your preferment.

The high honors attached to the office of Grand Matron are accompanied by weighty and delicate responsibilities. It is expected that you will have a watchful care over the interests of this Grand Chapter, see that its Constitutions, By-Laws and Regulations, orders and edicts are promptly enforced throughout this jurisdiction, that subordinate officers discharge their duties, and that, by your own respect for law and good government, you will cause all others to find the strongest incentive of obedience to all lawful commands.

Your duties are more specifically set forth in the Constitution, to which I refer you, with the admonition: Be cautious in your words, courteous in your actions, sincere in your rulings, governing with moderation and decorum, trusting that your well-known zeal in the cause of the Order will lead you to discharge these important trusts with lasting benefit to this Grand Chapter and great credit to yourself.



You will now be invested with the proper badge of office, and be conducted to your station in the East.

After she is in her station, the Installing officer will call up the Grand Chapter, and say:

Grand ———. Grand Matron, behold your sisters and brothers! Sisters and brothers, behold your Grand Matron, and salute her with the Grand Honors.

Seats the Grand Chapter.

G. M. Grand ———, it is with pleasure I introduce to you Brother ———, who has been duly elected Grand Patron

for the ensuing year. I doubt not but you will find him as willing to discharge the duties as to enjoy the high honors conferred upon him.

Grand ———. Brother ———, you have been elected by the free choice of the members of this Grand Chapter to occupy the most exalted position in their power to bestow upon a brother; a just compliment to your zeal and worth, and for which I offer you my sincere congratulations. Your intimate acquaintance with the rules and affairs of our Order justify me in saying that the members have exercised a sound discretion in this selection. You are elevated to a position from which the power and prerogative may depart with the expiration of your term of service, but the honor and dignity, except by your own act, *never!*

Your duties are to issue dispensations, organize and supervise new Chapters, and assist the Grand Matron in the discharge of her duties. Other duties appropriate to your high office might be named, which will readily suggest themselves to a sensi-

tive mind, imbued with a proper zeal to promote the interests of our Order. The field is broad, and whitening for the harvest; may you be the instrument of gathering many sheaves to our garner, that it may be said of you, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."

You will now be invested with the insignia of office, and be conducted to your station on the left of the Grand Matron in the East.

After he is in his station, the Installing Officer will call up the Grand Chapter, and say:

Grand ———. Grand Patron, behold your sisters and brothers! Sisters and brothers, behold your Grand Patron, and salute him with the Grand Honors.

Seats the Grand Chapter.

G. M. Grand ———, with pleasure I present Sister ———, elected Associate Grand Matron, for installation. I am persuaded she fully appreciates the honor

conferred, and will discharge the duties imposed with credit to herself and satisfaction to the Order.

Grand ———. Sister ———, the duties of your honorable station are embodied in the name of your office. You are to assist the Grand Matron, and in case of her death, absence, or disability, you shall act for her and discharge her duties. To you is especially intrusted the supervision of your sister officers, that the paraphernalia of the Grand Chapter be properly preserved, and its Ritual ceremonies performed intelligently. Be ever ready to discharge these duties.

You will now be invested with your badge of office, and conducted to your station in the West.

G. M. Grand ———, I now have the pleasure of presenting to you, for installation, Brother ———, who has been duly elected Associate Grand Patron.

Grand ———. Brother ———, congratulate you on being chosen to fill so

high a station. Your duties are to assist the Grand Patron, and in case of his death, absence or disability, to assume his powers and duties. Those who have reposed so much confidence in you have reason to expect you to faithfully look after their interests, and zealously work for the welfare of the Order. Let the laws, tenets and professions of the Eastern Star be your constant study, that you may be ready to enforce them by precept and example, and the better enabled to exercise the higher and more exalted position to which you may be called at any moment.

You will now be invested with the proper emblem of office, and conducted to your station on the left of the Associate Grand Matron, in the West.

G. M. Grand ———-, it is my pleasant duty to introduce —— ———, duly elected to serve us as Grand Secretary for the ensuing year.

Grand ———. ——— ———, the office to which you have been elected is by far the most important, if not the most

honorable, within the gift of this Grand Chapter. Yours is an onerous and most responsible charge. But few are competent to perform it in the thorough manner it demands. Failure or neglect upon your part will complicate and embarrass all our proceedings, and give us a disgraceful record before the world. To you, also, is intrusted the collection of all funds due the Grand Chapter, the custody of the seal, records, books, and papers. You are the correspondent and financial agent of the Grand Chapter, the medium of intercourse between the officers and members thereof, as well as between them and Subordinate Chapters. The faithful discharge of all your various duties requires constant and systematic work, a careful keeping of records and accounts, prompt and discreet action, and the highest integrity of character.

You will now receive your emblem of office, and be conducted to your station in the South-East.

G. M. Grand ———, it is with confidence and pleasure I present to you, for installation, Sister ———, duly elected to serve as Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Grand ———. Sister———, to you is intrusted the proper care, preservation and disbursement of the funds of this Grand Chapter. This is a trust of the utmost importance, for without money little good can be accomplished. You will, therefore, attend carefully to the financial interests of the Order, receiving the funds, through the Grand Secretary, from the different sources of revenue, keep them safely invested, render a just account thereof, and pay the same out only on proper vouchers, with the consent of this Grand Chapter. Let it be your constant care to be faithful to your trust, and not forfeit the confidence reposed in you by this Grand Chapter.

You will now receive your badge of office, and be conducted to your station, in the North-East.

G. M. Grand ———, I have the honor to present ——— ———, chosen to officiate as Grand Chaplain for the ensuing year.

Grand ———. My ———, our beautiful Order founded upon the moral teachings of the Holy Scripture, everywhere, and on all occasions, acknowledges the existence and providence of God. Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain. You have been chosen Grand Chaplain, and as such it will be your duty to conduct the devotional exercises of this Grand Chapter, and superintend and promote its charitable and benevolent objects. These will afford a wide field of usefulness, and may you be so successful in pointing to the "Star in the East" that all will be induced to follow it, until they meet in the Grand Chapter above.

You will now be invested with your badge of office, and take your station on the right of the Grand Matron.

G. M. Grand ———, it is with pleasure I present —— ———, appointed Grand Lecturer.

Grand ———. ——— ———, to you is intrusted the work of the Order, its rites, traditions, and ceremonies, and it will be your duty to exemplify the same, whenever called upon by this Grand Chapter, and see that they are intelligently performed by the subordinate Chapters of this jurisdiction. To discharge these duties well, will require much time, study and observation upon your part; but we trust that your attachment to the principles of our Order, and zeal in promoting its interests, will lead you to the faithful discharge of your duties.

Receive the jewel and emblem of your office, and take your station in the South.

G. M. Grand ———, I now have the pleasure of presenting ——— ———, for installation, as Grand Marshal.

Grand———. ——— ———, the post assigned to you is one of honor and responsibility. It is your duty to superintend and marshal all processions of the

Grand Chapter, assist in all its public and private ceremonies, conduct and proclaim the officers at the time of installation, and perform such other duties as pertain to your office.

You will now be invested with the badge of your office, and be conducted to your station in the South-East.

G. M. Grand ———, I have the pleasure to introduce, for installation, Sister ———, appointed Grand Conductress, and Sister ———, appointed Associate Grand Conductress for the ensuing year.

Grand ———. My sisters, your duties are to attend upon your superior officers, assist in the active duties of this Grand Chapter, introduce and welcome visitors, and aid in exemplifying the rites and ceremonies of our Order upon all proper occasions.

If you attend to these duties aright, throwing sisterly courtesy and dignity around your official conduct, you will

acquire the confidence and respect of all and merit promotion to still higher honors and more weighty responsibilities.

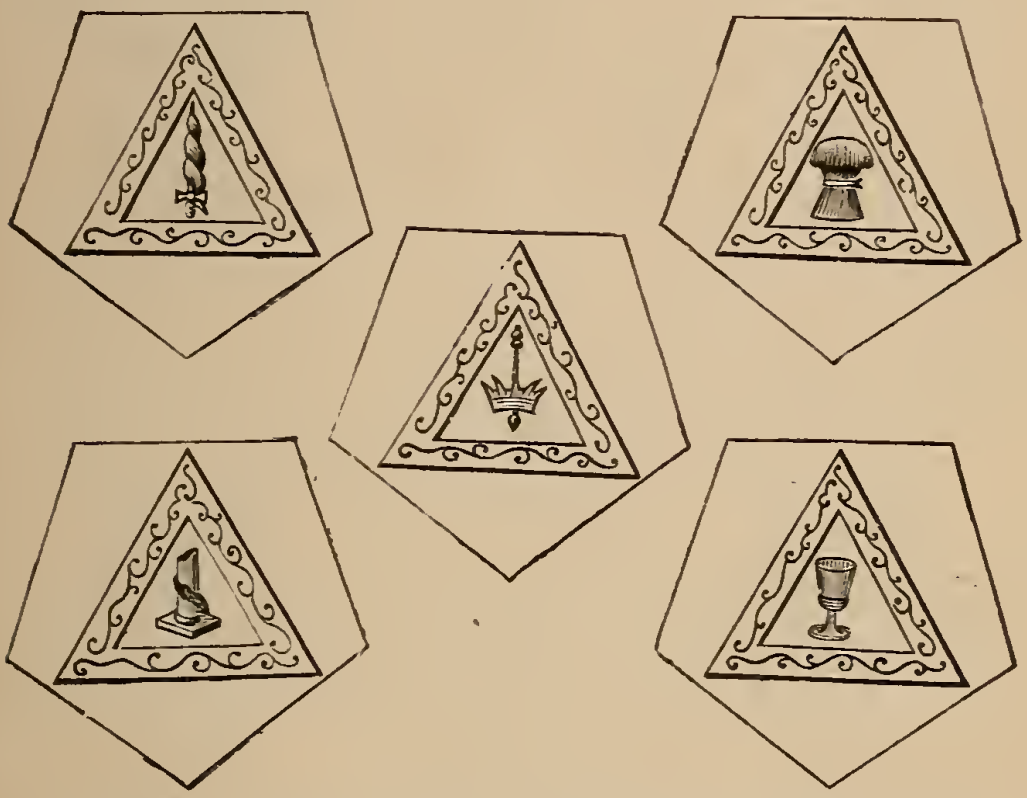
You will now receive your respective badges of office, and be conducted to your proper stations in the South and North.

G. M. Grand ———, it is with pleasure that I present to you, for installation, these sisters who have been appointed to represent the five distinguished heroines of our Order, Sister, ———, as Grand Adah; Sister ———, as Grand Ruth; Sister ———, as Grand Esther; Sister ———, as Grand Martha; Sister ———, as Grand Electa.

Grand ———. My sisters, the most important lessons of our Order are given from the five points of our emblematic Star. It should be your study to most impressively render these lessons during the opening ceremonies of this Grand

Chapter, and whenever your services may be needed.

You will now each be invested with the badge of your office, and conducted to your stations.



G. M. It is with pleasure that I present, for installation, Sister ———, appointed to be Grand Warder, and Brother ———, appointed to be Grand Sentinel.

Grand ———. My sister and brother, you are, respectively, the inner and outer guards of the Grand Chapter. Upon you, therefore, we rely to preserve

that secrecy which is essential to our proceedings, and to see that our ceremonies are not interrupted by untimely alarms, and to discharge such other duties as appertain to your office. A prompt and faithful discharge of these responsibilities will afford the best evidence of your attachment for the tenets and professions of our Order.

You will be invested with your respective badges of office, and conducted to your

stations within and without the door of the Grand Chapter.

G. M. It is my pleasant duty to present for installation, Sister ———, appointed to serve as Grand Organist for the ensuing year.

Grand ———. My sister, your duties are embodied in the name of your office, admonishing you that by uniting music and harmony with our mystic lessons

the ceremonials of our Order will prove more lasting.

You will be invested with your badge of office, and conducted to your station.

G. M. Grand ————, my duties are ended. The several officers of this Grand Chapter have been duly elected, installed, invested with their badges of office, and conducted to their respective stations.

Grand ————. It is well. Officers and members of the Grand Chapter, all things are now ready for you to enter upon the proceedings of a new year. Harmony and good-will prevail, and we start under the most auspicious circumstances. But no one can affirm that another year, or even a single day, will be committed to our trust. Therefore, if we have been faithful heretofore, let us redouble our exertions for the future. Let us continue kindly effectionate, one toward another. Let us walk circum-

spectly, sacredly preserving our lips from slander and evil speaking, ever remembering our sacred obligations. And may we, each of us, through the good providence of God, be brought, through a useful and happy life, to a blissful close and a triumphant entrance upon the joys of the Heavenly life.

Let us now look to God for his benediction.

Installing Officer calls up the Grand Chapter.

Prayer.

Grand ————. Grand Marshal, you will proclaim the Grand Officers, regularly installed.

G. M. In the name of the Grand Chapter and by order of the Worthy Grand ———, I proclaim the officers of the Grand Chapter of ———, Order of the Eastern Star, duly installed.

Seats the Grand Chapter.

Funeral Ceremonies

——OF THE——

Order of Eastern Star,

ADOPTED BY THE

General Grand Chapter.

Funeral Ceremonies

—OF THE—

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

At the burial of a sister, the badges of the members and officers should be draped with crape. A floral five-pointed Star should be provided, having flowers of the appropriate colors for the several points. The Star officers should each have a small bouquet, or a few loose flowers of the appropriate color. A few flowers should also be provided for the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron.

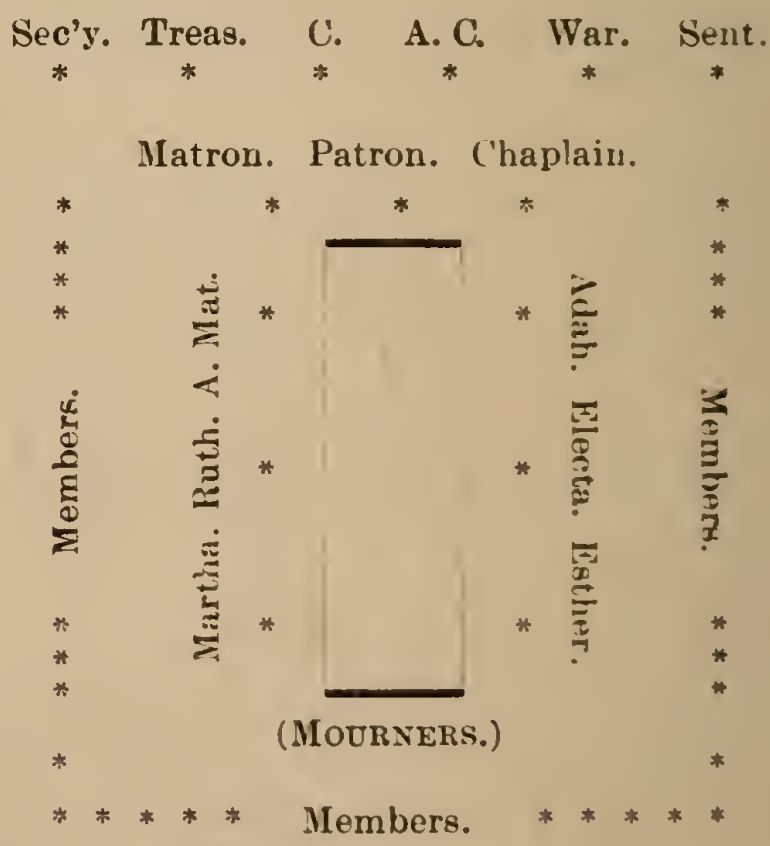
The floral Star may be deposited with the casket, or be retained by the family of the deceased.

This service, although primarily designed for use at the Grave, can, if it is thought best to do so, be performed within the Chapter room, the Church, or other appropriate place. The members may meet at the Chapter room, or at the place of service.

A member will be appointed to act as Marshal, who will see that the badges are properly draped, and that the officers and members are in their proper positions.

If a procession is formed, it will march in the following order: Marshal and Sentinel, Members, Warder and Electa, Martha and Esther, Ruth and Adah, Conductress and Associate Conductress, Secretary and Treasurer, Matron and Associate Matron, Patron and Chaplain.

During the services, the officers and members will occupy the following positions around the grave or casket:



When all is ready, the services should commence with a short strain of solemn music, "The

Lord is my Shepherd," etc. After which the Worthy Patron will say:

W. P. Sisters and Brothers, we have gathered at this solemn hour to perform those final rites which affection has prescribed for our departed sister. She, who was with us but yesterday, has been summoned hence by a messenger who cometh sooner or later for us all.

How appropriately may we gather around her remains, and together pay love's tribute to her memory.

She has indeed passed beyond the reach of praise, or the touch of censure. It is not, therefore, to her that we tender this our heart's saddest offering.

We are here in acknowledgment of sacred ties now severed, of memories tenderly cherished, and hearts touched with sympathy for loved ones bereaved.

Our sister has finished her alotted task in the conflict of life. The chapter of her earthly sojourn is closed, but her many virtues shall not go unrecorded.

For a time we have walked with her in the pilgrimage of life, and around the same altar we have learned the lessons of our Order.

As she was faithful to her convictions of right, as she was obedient to the demands of honor and justice in her station; as she loved kindred and friends, and in affliction evinced a trustful faith; and as she lived in the spirit of charity and the love of truth, so shall be her reward.

Remembering her many virtues, we are indeed mourners at her grave, and in the house of sorrow we would drop the tear of affectionate sympathy.

Sisters, brothers, and friends, as we stand in this solemn presence we may hear the voice of this Providence speaking to us.

Not long shall we wait ere we obey the inexorable decree of Death, and follow our sister.

How brief and full of mystery is human life! Who can fathom its purpose, or dis-

close its issues. We entered life as it were but yesterday; to-day we perform our alotted task, and to-morrow we go—who knows whither? We strain our eyes in vain endeavor to scan with mortal vision the infinite shore. But, thanks to our Heavenly Father, who gives fruition to His children's hopes, He bids us look yet again.

Standing beside the Broken Column, we may, with Martha's trustful faith, look beyond the shore of time, and know that our sister, though lost to mortal vision, is only waiting beyond the river to welcome us to our eternal home.

"In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there ye may be also." O, let the comforting assurance come to us, "That if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

Instructed by this Providence, may we go from this place of mourning, and this

hour of reflection, with the inspiration of a new hope, and earnest purpose.

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

SINGING.

The following or some other appropriate hymn may be used:

Friend after friend departs;
Who hath not lost a friend?
There is no union here of hearts,
That finds not here an end.
Were this frail world our only rest,
Living or dying, none were blest.

There is a world above,
Where parting is unknown—
A whole eternity of love
And blessedness alone;
And faith beholds the dying here,
Translated to that happier sphere.

W. P. The examples and symbols of our Order are full of useful and impressive lessons. They speak to us in this solemn hour with unwonted significance.

These floral tributes, the offering of sisterly affection, echo voices often heard from the several points of our Star; they symbolize, in the ritual of our Order, virtues which should adorn our lives. How appropriately, then, may they bear an important part in this solemn ceremonial.

Sisters of our Star, you who represent the five distinguished heroines of our Order, have you anything to offer ere we leave the grave of our departed sister?

Sister Adah, what is the voice and tribute from the Blue point of our emblematic Star?

Adah. Blue symbolizes fidelity, and is appropriate to Jephthah's Daughter, who, in the morning of life, surrendered to the grave the brightest of earthly hopes, that she might be faithful to her convictions of right, and preserve her

father's honor. As a token of faithfulness to the memory of our sister, I deposit in her grave this tribute of faithful love.

At the proper time each officer will drop into the grave, or place upon the casket, the flowers provided for that purpose.

Adah deposits her tribute, and then, addressing Ruth, says:

Sister Ruth, what is the voice and tribute from the Yellow point of our Star?

Ruth. Yellow symbolizes constancy, teaching faithful obedience to the demands of honor and justice. Ruth exemplified these virtues in humble station, and sought the society of the good and true. In token of appreciation of these virtues, I deposit in the grave of our sister this floral tribute.

Deposits her tribute, and then, addressing Esther, says:

Sister Esther, what is the voice and tribute from the White point of our Star?

Esther. White symbolizes light and purity. The heroic Queen Esther evinced

the purity of her motive and love of kindred and friends, by her willingness to risk the loss of crown and life, to save her people from death. In token of sincere affection for our sister, I deposit in her grave this emblem of light and purity.

Deposits her tribute, and then, addressing Martha, says:

Sister Martha, what is the voice and tribute from the Green point of our Star?

Martha. Green is an emblem of Nature's life and beauty. The evergreen is a symbol of immortal life, and teaches us, that in the economy of God there is no death; forms change, but the spirit survives. Martha, beside the grave of her beloved brother, avowed her trustful faith and hope of immortal life. In the full assurance of our sister's entrance upon a glorious immortality, I deposit in her grave this evergreen.

Deposits her tribute, and then, addressing Electa, says:

Sister Electa, what is the voice and tribute from the Red point of our Star?

Electa. Red symbolizes fervency and zeal. Electa represents those who have been pre-eminent in charity, and heroic in endurance of the wrongs of persecution. In token of the fervency of our affection for our sister, I deposit in her grave this tribute of love.

Deposits her tribute, and then, addressing the Worthy Matron, says:

Worthy Matron, we have spoken from the five points of our emblematic Star, but our departed sister hears us not. Is it in vain that we speak to the living?

W. M. You have spoken well, my sisters. It is not in vain that we hear the oft repeated lessons of our Star. It is true that our sister hears not with mortal ear the lessons she was wont to learn from you; but is it true that she listens not to our words of love, and sees not the beautiful tributes strewn within her grave? May not her quickened spirit, freed from its earthly tenement, yet hover around the loved ones here assembled, listen to our words, and perceive with clearer vision our every movement?

She needs not to be ministered unto; but may she not now minister to us? "Are they not all ministering spirits?" saith the apostle.

Love is an attribute of the soul, and imperishable. Our sister's affection ceases not; therefore may she not now be whispering to grief-stricken hearts, "Peace be still," "Lo, I am with you always." Think not that the spirit world is distant. Our loved ones, though lost to mortal sight, may yet be with us in spiritual existence. Let their loving presence be to us a perpetual inspiration, calling us to a higher moral and spiritual life.

These beautiful flowers are the highest expression of Nature's loveliness. We never tire of looking at their perfect and delicately variegated tints. From time immemorial they have been endowed with expressive language. They speak to us, "To whisper hope whene'er our faith grows dim." But these floral emblems, with all their exquisite loveliness, are but dim reflections of the glories that may be

unfolded to our spiritual vision. In token of our hope that such an unfolding of spiritual life may come to us all, I scatter these flowers within the grave of our departed sister. May we cherish her memory and emulate her virtues.

Deposits her tribute, and then, addressing the Worthy Patron, says:

Worthy Patron, within the grave, hallowed by the tenderest ties of human affection, we scatter these floral emblems of Nature's loveliness, and spiritual life. May we not trust all else to the Father's loving care?

W. P. The Infinite Father's ever watchful care is nowhere more impressively taught, than by His voice speaking to us through the floral kingdom. Over the whole earth where life exists, flowers bloom in endless variety and profusion. there is no place so obscure but that they blossom there and give to the world their beauty and fragrance. Some open with

the rising sun, and close with his setting rays. Others open to the full moon and starry firmament, and shrink before the piercing gaze of the king of day.

So the Father's love goes forth by day and night, to the weakest, most humble, and obscure of His children.

We are told to consider the lilies of the field, and learn the paternal love of Him, beyond whose watchful care none can stray. Not a sparrow falls without His notice. "Ye are of more value than many sparrows."

In token of our trust in the all-embracing love of the Infinite Father, I deposit these emblems of His watchful care in the grave of our departed sister.

Drops the flowers, and continues as follows:

Sisters and brothers, within the city of the dead, we consign to the bosom of mother earth all that was mortal of our departed sister. The body we leave in the grave is but the casket which held the

precious jewel of life. We bear it tenderly to its resting-place, because it is the form by which we knew her in our Chapter. Peacefully let it rest in the hallowed ground where we place it. Upon her grave flowerets will bloom amid all the countless activities of Nature's life.

"The murmuring brook, the bird on airy wing,
And whispering pines, will here her requiem sing."

Over her the fleeting shadows will pass. The rising sun will scatter over the chambers of the dead his gladsome rays, and tint the western sky with the glories of departing day. In the hush of night the feeble rays of countless stars, traveling centuries on their journey here, will finally rest upon her grave.

We leave in this lowly bed the earthly form of our departed sister, and may the hallowing influence of this providence go with us in the remaining journey of our life, and when our earthly mission is over, and we are "beyond the smiling and the

weeping" of earth, may we gather with the loved ones gone before.

Let us unite in prayer.

PRAYER.

Our Father who art in Heaven, in whom we live, and in whom are all the issues of life and death. We come to Thee, in this hour of sorrow, and ask that we may so learn the lessons of this hour, that when it shall be our turn to lay aside our mortality, that we may do it with trustful faith in Thee and hope of a glorious immortality. We pray Thee to look with tender compassion upon these Thy children, whose household has been broken by this providence. May they lie passive in the arms of Thy chastening love, and realize that there is wisdom and goodness in all Thy appointments. Sanctify this bereavement to the good of us all. May it be the means of drawing us closer to Thee, and of our loving and serving Thee forever. And as it has pleased Thee to call from the toils of earth the soul of our beloved sister, we commit her remains to the silent tomb. Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, hopefully looking to a joyful reunion with her, in that land where separation and death are known no more, forever. AMEN.

Response. So may it ever be.

SINGING.

Nearer, my God, to Thee,
  Nearer to Thee!
Ev'n though it be a cross
  That raiseth me!
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
  Nearer to Thee!

Though like a wanderer,
  The sun gone down,
Darkness be over me,
  My rest a stone,
Yet in my dreams I'd be
Nearer, My God, to Thee,
  Nearer to Thee!

Or, if on joyful wing
  Cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot,
  Upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, My God, to Thee,
  Nearer to Thee.

RD-83

Forms.

PETITION FOR DEGREES.

To the Worthy Matron, Officers, and Members of .....Chapter, No....., Order of the Eastern Star:

The undersigned respectfully petitions to receive the Degrees of the Order of the Eastern Star, and become a member of your Chapter.

If accepted, ...he pledges ....self to a cheerful obedience to the laws of the Order.

Residence..... Signed.....

Recommended by..... of.....

..... of.....Lodge,

F. & A. M. of.....

PETITION FOR AFFILIATION.

To the Worthy Matron, Officers, and Members of .....Chapter, No....., Order of the Eastern Star:

The undersigned, late a member of..... Chapter, No....., of....., solicits Affiliation with your Chapter.

If this Petition shall be granted, ..he pledges ....self to a cheerful obedience to the laws of the Order.

Residence..... *Signed*.....

Recommended by.....

....

[*The Petition must be accompanied by a Dimit from the Chapter of which the Petitioner was last a Member, or its absence satisfactorily explained.*]

DIMIT.

To all Members of the Order of the Eastern Star:
This Dimit witnesseth,

That....., *whose name appears in the margin of this instrument, was received into* .....*Chapter, No*....., *of*..... ..... *18*... *And that having paid all Dues, and being free from all charges, ..he is at .... own request lawfully dismissed from Membership therein.*

Given under my hand and the Seal o he Chapter, this.....*day of*....., ...

.....*Secret y.*

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